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Inter-Arab Affairs

Cordon States Foreign Ministers Arrive in Beirut

'Urayqat Denies Differences Within PLO

NC2608093793 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, arrived in Beirut from Amman this morning to attend the meeting of the Arab cordon states' foreign ministers. In an arrival statement, he denied differences within the PLO. What is happening, he said, is merely financial difficulties as a result of the economic blockade against the Palestinian people and their leadership. This blockade, he added, is a kind of political blackmail to force Palestinian concessions.

'Urayqat said that the next round of negotiations will last for only a week. Therefore, high optimism about the talks may not be justified.

'Urayqat 'Not Optimistic' About 11th Round

NC2608185493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, told our radio that he is not optimistic about the 11th round of talks and expressed his belief that there will be no change in the Israeli position. He told our correspondent Khalil Fulayhan:

[Begin recording] ['Urayqat] I believe that the recent Israeli aggression against Lebanon has exposed the truth of Rabin's government, and that it has no genuine desire to achieve peace. The aggression aimed to strike at the entire peace process. Rabin said that Israel (?will not withdraw) from Lebanon. [words indistinct]

The aggression was intended to achieve what the Israelis failed to achieve with the Lebanese during 22 months of negotiations. [words indistinct]

I appreciate the Lebanese unity demonstrated for the first time in many years. The Lebanese people stood like one man. This unity foiled the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. [words indistinct]

[Fulayhan] Regarding the 11th round of peace talks: Do you expect the Arab ministers at the coordination meeting to agree [words indistinct]?

['Urayqat] I will not say what I expect. The Palestinian delegation will present the facts to the Arab brothers. We have no recommendations on attending or not attending the next round. This decision will be made collectively with the Arab brothers.

[Fulayhan] Are you waiting for the results of the PLO meeting in Tunis [words indistinct]

['Urayqat] I said that this depends on four Arab parties. During the previous coordination meetings, we adopted certain stands. This time, however, we will decide with our Arab brothers collectively. [end recording]

Syria's al-Shar', PLO's Qaddumi Arrive

NC2608200093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has expressed dissatisfaction with remarks recently made by some Israeli officials regarding the occupied Golan Heights and withdrawal from south Lebanon. Upon arrival in Beirut this evening, al-Shar' hoped the next round of talks would produce concrete results that put the peace process on the right course. He noted that the coordination meeting of Arab parties involved in the peace process will give them the chance to consider the situation and assess what the peace process has achieved so far.

Faruq al-Qaddumi, head of the PLO political department, stressed that every Palestinian should enjoy freedom of expression. He pointed out that disparity of views is a democratic process. He denied that there is a crisis among the Palestinian leaders, saying: The Palestinian stand is a united one, even if there are varying individual views.

Qaddumi: Palestinian Stance 'United'

NC2708061793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Statement by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents, after his arrival in Beirut on 26 August—recorded]

[Text] Disparity of views is a democratic process. Palestinian democracy is an example in the Arab region. We must give freedom of expression to every Palestinian. The issue we are fighting for is a national and pan-Arab one and participation in this struggle should be at these levels.

[Correspondent] Will the Palestinian differences have an effect on the Arab coordination meeting?

[Qaddumi] There is a united Palestinian stand, though there are various individual views. But when a decision is made, then everyone abides by it.

[Correspondent] Is there a crisis among the Palestinian leaders?

[Qaddumi] There is no crisis among the Palestinian leaders.

[Correspondent] Some Palestinians believe that the Gaza-Jericho First plan is the start of the solution, while others believe that this proposal is the start of a problem. What is your view?

[Qaddumi] This plan was in response to the U.S. proposal for an early transfer of authority. We said that we

do not need an early transfer of authority but are demanding an early withdrawal.

Al-Shar' Deplores Israeli Raids

JN2708080093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Upon arrival in Beirut last night for the coordination meeting of the Arab parties involved in the peace process, which is due to start in Beirut today, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: We are confident that this meeting will give us the opportunity to study the situation and the progress of the peace process.

In statements to journalists, al-Shar' added: We will exchange views on future steps, especially in the light of developments in the Lebanese arena, and in the Arab arena in general. We will analyze and assess the previous rounds, as we have done in previous coordination meetings. We hope the 11th round will produce results that would achieve the basic objective of the peace process; namely, the implementation of the UN resolutions that constitute the terms of reference and the basis for the Madrid Conference.

Al-Shar' added: Naturally, each delegation will express its own viewpoint and concept on the forthcoming phase.

Al-Shar' said: We are not satisfied with the recent statements made by some Israeli officials concerning the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and withdrawal from south Lebanon. In any case, there are, as I have said, UN resolutions and a role to be played by the U.S. sponsor.

Al-Shar' said he hopes the forthcoming round of talks in Washington will produce tangible results and progress that will finally put the peace process on the right course.

Asked about what is required from the U.S. sponsor to boost the 11th round, al-Shar' stressed the need to stick to the role of an honest broker and implement the UN resolutions, which constitute the basis from which the peace process emanated in Madrid.

Asked about Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal, which Rabin regards as a solution to resolve the situation in the south, the foreign minister said: Any stand coming from Israel that contradicts, or fails to meet with the terms of reference of the peace process and the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly the application of the resolutions that constitute the basis for the peace process, cannot be considered a positive stand that can help the peace process and put it on the right course.

Asked about the results Syria expects from the Beirut meeting, al-Shar' said: We expect a united Arab stand to be taken, as was the case with past Arab meetings. Coordination is very important for us as Arab parties. Events and developments have proven that this coordination would spare the Arab parties any gap in the Arab position and also help achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, based on the international legitimacy and Security Council resolutions.

Asked about the Israeli raids on south Lebanon on the eve of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Beirut, al-Shar' said: Such aggressive acts do not create a suitable atmosphere for resuming the peace process. It is evident that any escalation in violence in south Lebanon does not serve the peace process. We view the Israeli air raids from this perspective.

Jordan's al-Hasan on Commitment to Talks

NC2708105393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Remarks by Talal al-Hasan, Jordan's minister of state for foreign affairs, in response to questions by unidentified correspondents, following his arrival at Beirut Airport on 27 Aug—recorded]

[Excerpts] Mr. Minister, you arrived today to attend the coordination meeting. What do you have to say on this occasion?

[Al-Hasan] First, I'd like to thank his excellency brother and friend Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz for his invitation to me to participate on behalf of Jordan in the coordination meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab countries involved in the peace process, in addition to the Arab Republic of Egypt. [passage omitted]

During the coordination meeting, we will make a broad assessment of the peace process. Of course, there will an emphasis on the 10th round so that we can prepare the suitable assessment that is necessary for starting the 11th round.

[Correspondent] Are you carrying any specific ideas that you will present during this meeting?

[Al-Hasan] Jordan's stand and principles are known. They include a commitment to the existing peace process, which was established on bases that are known to all the participating parties, namely adherence to the international legitimacy's resolutions, foremost of which are Resolutions 242 and 338; the principle of land in return for peace; and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination on all their own national soil

[Correspondent] How do you view Rabin's recent statements on the situation in the region, and especially in Lebanon?

[Al-Hasan] We will naturally discuss all the issues that concern each one of the Arab parties so that the heads of these delegations can do whatever is appropriate to take the right Arab stand to achieve the higher joint Arab interest.

[Correspondent] What is your position on the Gaza-Jericho plan for the Palestinians?

[Al-Hasan] We in Jordan need to know all this plan's details and implications. Then we will be able to give the appropriate view in light of Jordan's higher interests.

Egypt's Musa Stresses Caution, Unity

NC2708105493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa arrived at the Bristol Hotel at 1230 today. All the foreign ministers of the Arab countries participating in the peace process who will attend the coordination meeting at 1600 today are now at the hotel.

Answering reporters' questions, Musa said: We must preserve the unity of Arab ranks at this time, particularly the unity of the Palestinian negotiating delegation.

He said he believes that the negotiations are now entering a critical stage, and that we must be very cautious in our handling of current proposals and ideas.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Meeting Begins in Tunis

LD2708072693 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee yesterday evening began its meeting in Tunis to study the political situation within the PLO and the development of the peace process. A responsible Palestinian source told TAP that the meeting, which is being chaired by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, is being attended by 14 members out of 18 members of the Executive Committee. The source said that two members—Faruq al-Qaddumi and Shafiq al-Hut—are in Beirut to participate in the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab countries bordering Israel, which begins today. Another member—Eli al-Khuri—is not attending due to illness. Among those attending is Mahmud Darwish, whose resignation from this leadership authority was rumored recently. It is expected that the meeting of the PLO Executive Committee will go on for two days and will be followed by a meeting of the Palestinian leadership beginning tomorrow, Saturday [28 August], which will be attended by members of the Palestinian negotiating team.

DFLP Leader Comments on Meeting

JN2608151093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by Ahmad Birru; in Damascus on 26 August—recorded]

[Text] [Birru] What about the DFLP's [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] participation in the PLO Executive Committee meeting today?

[Hawatimah] We told our representative Taysir Khalid that he is free to decide whether or not to participate in the PLO Executive Committee meeting. The issue in question is the need to emerge from this grinding crisis the PLO experiences and end the collapse of its institutions. What is even more important is the grinding crisis resulting from the bilateral and multilateral negotiations in accordance with the Madrid-Washington formula. Our people reject this formula.

[Birru] Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, very briefly, what are the causes of the ongoing crisis within the PLO, according to the DFLP? What means should be adopted to overcome this crisis?

[Hawatimah] In essence, the crisis stems from the policy 'Arafat and his team have adopted, that of the Madrid-Washington formula with respect to the bilateral and multilateral negotiations. This completely conflicts with the Palestine National Council and the PLO Central Council resolutions. Brother Abu-'Ammar's ['Arafat] insistence on pursuing his divisionist and adventurous policy has led to these destructive results. The majority of our people have rejected the formula of the current negotiations, as shown in the recent CNN public opinion poll in the occupied territories. It shows the majority is against this, and that only a minority supports the formula of the current bilateral and multilateral negotiations. Seeking a way out of the current crisis necessarily requires the suspension of the bilateral and multilateral negotiations, convening a roundtable on a comprehensive national dialogue where we will discuss every situation in order to reach political, organizational, and financial solutions for PLO institutions and for the relationship between the occupied territories and the diaspora, on an equal footing between the two.

A few moments ago, we ended the second meeting with our guest, brother Faruq Qaddumi. We told all this to him. Otherwise, the collapse will continue and other members of the PLO Executive Committee and institutions will resign. The fate will be a gloomy one. Salvation is through the suspension of the negotiations, and the convening of a roundtable for dialogue. Faruq Qaddumi agreed with me on this.

[Birru] Mr. Hawatimah, will the DFLP go as far as those who say that Yasir 'Arafat should resign from the PLO Executive Committee chairmanship?

[Hawatimah] Frankly speaking, this depends on the readiness of 'Arafat and his team to hold a roundtable on national dialogue and to go back to the national plan that was approved by Palestinian and international legitimacy. But, if there is an insistence on pursuing the current policy without paying attention to what others have to say or to their warnings, then the trend among Palestinians to radically review the configuration of the command echelons within the PLO institutions will become more enhanced.

[Birru] Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, DFLP secretary general, thank you.

Al-Husayni Signs Pro-'Arafat 'Manifesto'

TA2608170093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian peace delegation, today signed a manifesto in support of PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat. The manifesto was circulated by figures close to 'Arafat, and it was signed by dozens of Palestinian notables in Judaea and Samaria. The manifesto described 'Arafat as the true leader of the Palestinian people who will solve the organization's financial crisis.

Abu-Sharif on U.S. Role in Current PLO Crises

NC2608201693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1640 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has stressed that a U.S. decision can solve the PLO's financial and political crises. In a statement to our radio, he said that the U.S. Administration has sought for four years to dry up the PLO's financial resources. Our correspondent in Paris Andre Muhawish speaks to Abu-Sharif from Paris:

[Begin recording] [Muhawish] Bassam Abu-Sharif has stressed that the PLO has passed through several crises in its history and that it will overcome the current internal differences as it did those in the past. He emphasized that current events within the PLO are part of the democratic game and noted that the historic circumstances the region is experiencing and the PLO's financial crisis were behind the current democratic discussions within the PLO. He was alluding to the crisis of resignations in the PLO.

[Abu-Sharif] There is no doubt that the next round of peace talks will be very crucial, as they are the last chance for practical progress in the peace process. It will be the last chance. The next round of talks is important, and we expect decisions will be made and practical steps taken regarding implementation of the resolutions of the international legitimacy or implementation of the initial stages of these resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

[Muhawish] Do you think that the financial crisis is being used as a means of pressure on the PLO?

[Abu-Sharif] Let me be frank with you: The U.S. decision affects the PLO's political and financial crises. The U.S. Administration has tried for four years to dry up the PLO's financial resources. We believe that the U.S. decision can resolve the political crisis by convincing the Israeli Government of the need to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy. The U.S. decision can also resolve the financial crisis by suggesting that the Arab countries that stopped giving aid to the PLO resume payments.

[Muhawish] As to the truth of the Israeli statement that an Israeli-Palestinian agreement would be declared during the next round of talks, Abu-Sharif said that the Israeli party should be realistic and serious about its proposals. The United States should exercise its full role as partner to the negotiations. [end recording]

Qaddumi, al-Fahum Call for Collective Leadership

JN2608183693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] During talks they held with PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi in Damascus today, Palestinian officials emphasized the need to establish a collective leadership for the PLO.

Khalid al-Fahum, Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] chairman, has stated that he and PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi have agreed on the need to establish a PLO collective leadership, because the one-man leadership has proved it cannot deal with the Palestinian cause in these difficult and complicated circumstances. They also agreed on not having unilateral control over spending, because the unilateral control over spending that has prevailed in the past has resulted in the suspension of the salaries of workers and payments to the families of martyrs at other times.

Khalid al-Fahum added that his talks with Qaddumi focused on the crisis the PLO is experiencing and the need to convene the Palestine National Council and resume the dialogue initiated a few months ago between the Fatah Movement and the other Palestinian factions that oppose the peace process. The PNSF comprises several organizations which are not affiliated to the PLO.

On the other hand, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine have, in a joint statement, warned the Palestinian negotiators against offering fresh concessions, particularly on the Jerusalem issue. They asked the negotiators not to accept the Israeli plan to withdraw from Gaza and Jericho before the other territories. The two fronts held Yasir 'Arafat fully responsible for the collapse of the PLO institutions.

PLO Officials: Israel Willing To Consider Gaza-Jericho

JN2608133293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26-26 Aug 93 pp 1, 2

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES by Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—Israel has sent clear signals it would seriously consider withdrawing from the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho as part of the proposed Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories, highly-informed Palestinian sources said Wednesday [25 August].

"There will be two types of withdrawals: The withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and Jericho and the withdrawal of Israeli military rule from the rest of the occupied territories," a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, and other PLO sources also said the organisation had received "positive signals" to this effect from the Israeli government and consider them as possible breakthough and progress in the peace talks because they indicated a shift from previous Israeli positions.

The sources did not spell out the nature of the "signals" or who conveyed them, but it was believed that senior Israeli officials who have clandestinely met with PLO officials in recent weeks were the couriers.

"A few months back, the Israelis were ready to offer Palestinians self-rule in Gaza Strip only. Then they accepted a complete pullout from the Strip," said the PLO official. "Their latest position is withdrawal from the Gaza Strip as well as Jericho."

The so-called Gaza-Jericho first option, or the "mixed model," was first floated as an idea after the ninth round Israeli-Arab bilateral peace talks in April/May after the negotiations snagged over the issue of Jerusalem and the extent of Palestinian jurisdiction during the interim five-year self-rule period.

It was presented as a formal proposal in a Palestinian document handed over to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Jerusalem during his regional trip this month.

The proposal is based on the implementation of "final status" arrangements in Gaza and Jericho while simultaneously carrying out interim arrangements in the West Bank according to the "mixed model," there will be two parallel Palestinian authority systems: One interim self-government in the West Bank and another fully administered by the PLO in Gaza and Jericho.

Under this formula, the West Bank and the areas including the Gaza Strip and Jericho will be merged as a single territorial unit after the five-year interim period, the sources said.

The idea was proposed to allay Palestinian concerns stemming from the absence of clear definition of "permanent-status" arrangements for the occupied territories and the lack of clarity of the final objectives of the peace talks.

Palestinians wanted to know in advance of the features of "final status" because they feared that the interim arrangement will be the "final status."

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, a proponent of the idea, had not elaborated on the proposal until this week in Amman when he said that the PLO rejected the Israeli concept of the Gaza-Jericho plan which was based on offering autonomy to Palestinians in the two areas. Palestinians demand total withdrawal from the two areas, he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said Tuesday that Israel would not object to accelerating the transfer of authority process and withdrawing Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip.

"We have only recently received signals that Israel is willing to withdraw from Gaza and Jericho," said the PLO official. "The issue was also under study by the Israeli foreign ministry and the foreign affairs committee of the Israeli parliament."

"There is reason for optimism," he said.

Other sources said the U.S., which had initially rejected the proposal as impractical and a departure from the orginal terms of reference of the peace process, has now started to think that the idea might achieve the desired break-through before the end of this year.

They said the initial Palestinian perception of the plan includes a clear and set timetable for the withdrawal of the Israeli army from the Gaza Strip and from Jericho town, making trilateral arrangement with U.N. participation or under U.N. supervision for crossing point (Gaza-Egypt and Jericho-Jordan). It would also include establishing air and land corridors for the free movement of people and goods.

The U.N. will take over the responsibility for running the areas concerned for a specific period in a capacity of transitional caretaker.

An international emergency construction fund should be established to set up infrastructure and development projects plan.

Elections for a local government will have to be carried out under U.N. supervision after which the world body will formally transfer its responsibility over to the PLO and its relevant bodies at the end of the specified transitional period.

Simultaneously, the interim period will begin in the West Bank with an immediate election of an Palestinian-elected authority to which the powers of the Israeli military administration will be transferred. Then the elected Palestinian authority and the Gaza-Jericho government will set up ties pending the full Israeli withdrawal and the merger of the Palestinian territories into one unit.

PLO officials said the proposal was discussed with His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali in the past two days.

Some Jordanian officials said Jordan was upset with the PLO since it was not put in the picture over the developments over the Gaza-Jericho option despite the direct effects such an arrangement would have on Jordan itself. They said the possible inter-Palestinian troubles in Gaza and Jericho might spill over to Jordan.

"We thought there were Israeli-Palestinian agreements concerning the Gaza-Jericho plan, and we cannot accept

being the last to know about something that might jeopardise our stability and directly affects us," said one Jordanian official.

"We are not consulted on the issues, but we were expected to agree to it," said the official.

Furthermore, recent Jordan sensitives with the PLO emerged from a feeling that the organisation was not serious in coordinating closely with Jordan despite the formation of six joint committees in July and the agreement that the panels would meet immediately.

The PLO's delay in naming the Palestinian sides to the committees and setting a date for their meeting was also another source of concern expressed by Jordanian officials.

Early this week, King Husayn criticised the lack of close coordination on the part of the PLO, whether related to the work of the joint committees or the lack of consultations on the Gaza-Jericho issues.

A PLO official said Mr. 'Arafat's visit this week was to allay Jordanian fears, assure the Kingdom that no deals were struck under the table and to explain the objectives behind the PLO's Gaza-Jericho proposal and developments related to the issue.

"It was only an idea floated by the PLO and the only Israeli response was received very recently," said the PLO official.

He said the PLO's internal crises delayed Mr. 'Arafat's visit and the delay in convening the joint committees.

'Ashrawi Discusses Gaza-Jericho Plan, PLO Reform

JN2608191593 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1710 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks left Amman for Tunis today to hold discussions with the Palestinian leadership before heading for Washington to attend the 11th round of peace talks.

The Palestinian delegation is carrying a Palestinian plan to Tunis. The plan demands Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and the implementation of self-rule in the rest of the occupied territories.

[Begin recording] [Hanan 'Ashrawi] This plan was only presented as an idea during the previous round. It was presented to the U.S. side, but not as an integrated or final plan. We are still working on the details of this plan. We will discuss its details and dimensions in Tunis and the PLO there will make a decision on it. However, we should note that it is early to say if this is the solution, or even reject this as a solution, because any stand should be based on a full understanding of all its dimensions.

I believe such a plan cannot be presented without a full awareness and examination of its dimensions and what it means for the future.

[Unidentified reporter] But does this represent a first step toward progress in this process?

['Ashrawi] Progress could be realized if all the ingredients and dimensions exist. However, the existence of these ingredients should be secured in terms of entrenching the issue of withdrawal as well as the issue of full withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho as part of a timetable for withdrawal from the rest of the occupied territories. This should also be done within the context of an integrated political perspective that guarantees the exercise of sovereignty and balances the Palestinian track with the other Arab tracks. All these ingredients require examination and guarantees. We also need an integrated development and economic project for this issue. One cannot make a judgement without the existence of these ingredients.

[Unidentified reporter] Will the financial problems facing the PLO form an obstacle to the peace process?

['Ashrawi] The crisis facing the PLO is multifaceted. The Palestinian people and all their institutions are also facing this crisis. It is a crisis of many dimensions, including the economic siege, lack of progress in the peace process and Palestinian public opinion about this, pressures exerted on the Palestinian side, in addition to a process that has been going on for while, which is the process of internal reform and strengthening the internal Palestinian stand by improving its structure and decisionmaking methods. This is something legitimate, democratic, and continuous, but it surfaced now as a result of the interaction among all the factors.

I believe that this crisis requires solidarity, the shouldering of responsibilities, and every effort to improve and protect the PLO, because it represents the national identity of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination. Everyone is asked to contribute, in a responsible manner, avoiding vituperations, oneupmanship, and slogans. The reform program, or the internal program to confront this crisis, will be a responsible program that involves everyone's efforts. [end recording]

Sha'th Comments on Gaza-Jericho Plan

NC2608213093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that Egypt has never shunned its responsibility toward the Palestinian cause and that it has played a leading role in guaranteeing a comprehensive solution and in exerting pressure through its ties with the United States and Israel.

At a seminar organized by the AL-AHRAM newspaper, to be published tomorrow, Friday [27 August], Sha'th denied that Egypt had tried to impose a single word on the Palestinian delegation, noting that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa only suggested an alteration or rephrasing of

a word or phrase but, finding the Palestinians resolved to use it, would say: It is your paper, not mine. Do what you want with it.

Sha'th pointed out that the person who made such allegations against Egypt was Taysir Khalid, Nayif Hawatimah's representative at the PLO Executive Committee. He added that Khalid wanted a dispute with 'Arafat, using Egypt as an excuse to attack 'Arafat.

Responding to a question on the Israeli project for withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, 'Arafat's adviser said it is more like the disengagement agreement concluded in the past on the Egyptian and Syrian fronts and that it seeks to build confidence and act as a prologue to a real solution. He expressed the belief that this will be achieved this year.

Replying to a question on the future of Gaza and Jericho after their return to the Palestinians, Dr. Sha'th remarked that the matter will not be easy and that it will require further support, particularly economic, since the problem will be more economic than security-related. He pointed out that one authority will rule the two cities with [words indistinct] and that there will be relations with Israel even if the Palestinian state is established in the West Bank and Gaza, because Israel will be between the two. He explained that the distance between Gaza and Jericho is 30 km and that a bridge or a tunnel could be built to link them through an agreement with Israel.

'Arafat's adviser added that Gaza and Jericho will be the nucleus for the independent state of Palestine. However, he asserted, we will not proclaim the Palestinian state there just to avoid having some people get the impression that the Palestinians are satisfied with this alone.

Sha'th pointed out that a fully Palestinian national authority will be in charge of Gaza and Jericho. A section of the PLO leadership will naturally move there, he said, adding that the Israelis are well aware of that.

As for the final status of Jerusalem, Sha'th said the matter will be discussed at the final negotiations just as the final status of Nabulus, Bi'r Zayt, al-Khalil [Hebron], and others.

He remarked that the issue of the state and the borders are not on the agenda during the transitional period. What is needed now is insistence on including things like education, churches, mosques, health and similar things in Jerusalem within the Palestinian state's jurisdiction, he remarked.

We are talking about Jerusalem's geographical jurisdiction and not the final status, he explained.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th addressed an appeal to the Israelis through his dialogue with AL-AHRAM, in which he emphasized that it is in Israel's interest to accept the establishment of an independent Palestinian state because this will provide more security for the Israelis and their sons.

In his appeal he said: O Israelis, you will not understand until you do what Frederik de Klerk did in South Africa. He recognized the African National Congress and initiated negotiations with Nelson Mandela, who might become the first president from among the citizens during April elections.

Sha'th added: O Israelis, you will not succeed until you believe in full equality between two independent states that include Palestine and Israel side by side. We have nothing but peace to offer to the Israeli negotiator; this is what makes life more secure for us all.

Sha'th accused the United States of rejecting dialogue with the PLO. He said Washington obstructs Israel's recognition of the PLO and adopts a hardline stand on that issue to prevent any Israeli recognition of the PLO to pressure Washington to do the same.

Sha'th said that the United States thinks that its refusal to recognize the PLO will force that organization to make concessions. He affirmed that this will not happen, because "when man is hungry, he has nothing to lose."

Responding to a question on coordination between the PLO and the negotiating delegation, Nabil Sha'th said that a number of decisions have been adopted, including the annexation of the Steering Committee of the negotiating delegation to the committee that emanated from the PLO leadership to follow up on negotiations. He explained that the delegation has a Steering Committee that includes, besides himself, PLO member Akram Haniyah. He pointed out that this committee acts as a liaison between the delegation and the committee following up negotiations in Tunis.

We did not appoint people from within the territories for fear that Israel might expel them, he explained. Therefore, he added, we tried to avoid the possibility of deporting anyone from Palestine.

Sha'th added: When we felt during the past two months that there was an Israeli inclination to accept a bigger PLO role, we made the decision to merge the steering and the follow-up committees, which includes, beside me, Yasir 'Arafat as chairman, Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] as deputy chairman, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and Akram Haniyah.

Sha'th pointed out that the measure, to which Israel did not object, was a new step toward Israel's recognition of the PLO.

Asked whether there are contacts between the PLO and certain Arab states to improve relations, 'Arafat's adviser said that everyone in the PLO wants relations to return to what they were before. He referred to visits by Palestinian delegations to the Gulf states, Egypt's contacts to heal the rift, the Arab rallying around Palestine, and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's efforts in that area.

Commenting on the PLO's financial crisis, Sha'th said that the new projects in Palestine—such as hospitals and

universities—which the PLO used to finance are now threatened. The same thing applies to expenditures on POW's, prisoners, wounded persons, and martyrs. He said the PLO used to pay these people $500 million annually and that now it cannot spend more than $35 million.

Sha'th added that Arab financial support reached $100 million annually and that the rest came from taxes and Palestinian expatriates' transfers. All this has evaporated now, he remarked.

Replying to a question about reconsidering the PLO's stand on the Gulf war, Dr. Sha'th said: We know that we made a mistake during the Gulf war. If our mistake was 70 percent, our media's mistake was 100 percent because they failed to convey our principled objection to the Iraqi invasion. Our decision was to act as mediators because we believed that the solution could be an Arab one; we did not want America to strike Iraq, he said. However, he added, we also wanted Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. We made a wrong attempt to prevent the war. True Kuwait was right. We would have done the same if we were in its place because the situation did not allow for neutrality, he said.

Further on Interview

NC2608164593 Paris AFP in English 1610 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, Aug 26 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) would move its headquarters from Tunis to the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip if there was an Israeli withdrawal, a senior PLO official said in an interview published Thursday [26 August].

Nabil Sha'th, political advisor of PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat, told the AL-AHRAM WEEKLY: "The Israelis understand that the Gaza-Jericho first proposal means the total exercise of Palestinian sovereignty over the two regions, as a first step towards an independent Palestinian state".

"It also means that the Palestinian leadership will move from Tunis to the region—'Arafat will live in Gaza and Jericho," he added.

Contacted by AFP in Cairo, Sha'th insisted that such a move would only be possible if the Israeli army agrees to relinquish its control of the Allenby Bridge, on the Jordan river, to Palestinian police. The bridge links Jericho to Jordan.

Sha'th added that the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, which reconvene next Tuesday in Washington, will ask the Israelis to give up their control of the Allenby Bridge to a Palestinian police force.

The Palestinians want Israel to withdraw from the Jericho district and the Gaza Strip, handing them control of everything except foreign affairs and defence, at the same time as an interim autonomy agreement goes into effect in the rest of the West Bank.

This proposal has not been totally rejected by Israel.

Sha'th made clear that the Palestinian proposal of Gaza and Jericho first does not mean that the PLO has given up its claim on East Jerusalem, which was occupied and annexed by Israel in 1967.

"This project is not an alternative to Jerusalem and it does not mean that the PLO is giving up an inch of Palestine," he said.

"The Palestinians cannot make concessions on Jerusalem, and the Palestinian delegation cannot approve a declaration of principles which does not imply Palestinian sovereignty on all the territories occupied by Israel," he added.

According to Sha'th, "the Gaza-Jericho project should be considered as a step towards implementing U.N. Resolution 242 (demanding an Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands occupied in 1967) and which would at the same time contribute to building up the confidence required to achieve a settlement of the problem."

He added that the Palestinians "proposed the Gaza-Jericho solution in the framework of the confidence building measures, and in order to break the deadlock and allow the talks to continue".

In the next round of talks, "the Palestinian delegation will concentrate on two axes: reaching an intermediate stage of full autonomy in Gaza and Jericho, on the one hand, and a declaration of principles binding all the territories, on the other", he concluded.

PLO Envoy Reacts To Peres' Withdrawal Offer

LD2608201493 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Studio interview with PLO representative in France Leila Shahid by program announcer Paul Amar; Shahid speaks in French—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Amar] At the very moment when you came into the studio, we received a telegram from Washington, saying that Israel was prepared to return Gaza and Jericho to the Palestinians. This was said in Washington by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. What is your reaction?

[Shahid] I am very glad to hear it. This is what we have been negotiating for for 22 months now. If today the Israeli foreign minister declares that they are prepared to pull back from the military occupation of Gaza and Jericho, then I hope that this is a first step on the way to a total withdrawal from all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem and the West Bank.

[Amar] The peace talks are set to resume on Monday [30 August]. If you accept, as you seem to be doing, the

proposal of a withdrawal of the Israeli Army from Gaza and Jericho, then could this mean that very soon Yasir 'Arafat could go to Jericho to set up the capital of an embryonic Palestinian state?

[Shahid] Well, you must understand that this withdrawal can only be part of a more global withdrawal. We are talking about an interim period of two years, but for all the territories, for the territories as occupied in 1967. I think that the most important thing is that if we really do get an accord between the PLO and Israel, then the new fact will be the recognition of the PLO as the national representative of all the Palestinian people, and that will be a first.

[Amar] There are Palestinians in the PLO who do not accept this possibility of an accord with Israel, and even the presence of a Palestinian administration in Gaza and Jericho.

[Shahid] Yes, there are different positions. There are some Palestinians who are opposed to any negotiation, who would liberate their territory by force. Since 1988, the PLO has backed the option of political negotiation. Unfortunately, until now we have had very little response from the occupying forces, that is, from the Israeli Army. So, if today we are moving on to direct negotiations with the PLO for the first time, then this will be the first sign in 22 months of a serious decision by the Israeli Government, and will I think, be a historic breakthrough for the Middle East.

[Amar] Really?

[Shahid] Yes, indeed. We have not yet reached that point I think. As you know, until now we have negotiated through a delegation that only represented the inhabitants of the territories of the West Bank and Gaza, without Jerusalem, and at any rate without the Palestine Liberation Organization. This was a condition put by Mr. Shamir that we accepted only to push him into this corner. If today, Mr. Rabin's government declares, but Mr. Rabin would have to say it, that it is prepared to talk with the PLO, then they will be talking with the national representative with the aim of reaching a solution that can only lead to the mutual recognition of the two peoples and the two states.

[Amar] Can one imagine in the medium term relations between Israelis and Palestinians that might be similar to relations between Israelis and Egyptians as they stand today?

[Shahid] I think that it could even go further than in terms of mutual recognition, because I think that the two people who are most concerned in this Arab-Israeli conflict are really the Palestinians and the Israelis. Since 1948, the Palestinians have been the core of this problem, and they are the inevitable step on the way to a real reconciliation with the Arab world. Since 1988, the PLO has called for this real reconciliation between these two peoples, and I think that today it is time for Israel to respond to this outstretched hand.

[Amar] Does the PLO not run the risk of imploding if you reach this historic breakthrough as you called it?

[Shahid] No, I do not think so. For me the discussions that are being held this very evening among the members of the PLO's Executive Committee are the proof of a real democratic debate. Contrary to other states, we are a people that negotiates, so we need to reach a national consensus, and I think that Mr. 'Arafat is ensuring there is a debate within his Executive Committee, which might enable everyone to take position. A majority will finally decide, and I think that we will all respect the choice of the majority of the Executive Committee members.

[Amar] Thank you Mrs. Shahid for this first reaction to the declarations of Mr. Peres.

'Secret' Meeting Reportedly Held on Israeli Paper

NC2708113293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0942 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Tunis, 27 Aug (MENA)—The Tunisian newspaper AL-SHURUQ cites an official Palestinian source that a secret meeting between PLO officials and members of the White House's American Security Academy [as received] was held in Tunis in July. The meeting was viewed as indirect security negotiations between the PLO and Israel through the United States.

The source said the American side was represented by the academy's president, Mr. Mindlon; Jeffrey Paul; and envoy Weinberger [names as received], and the Palestinian side by Colonel Nizar [not further identified] and Mr. Mamduh Nawfal, a member of the PLO steering committee that is supervising the negotiations.

The source said the talks dealt with an Israeli security paper on the issues of borders, police, entry ports, and settlements. The paper had been presented to the Palestinians earlier.

The Palestinian source explained that Nawfal demanded several amendments to the Israeli paper before accepting it. The Palestinians rejected altering the border between Israel and the West Bank and Gaza as demarcated after 4 July 1947. The alteration proposed by the Israeli paper would allow Israel to swallow up the city of Qalqilyah near the green line separating Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

The Palestinians also rejected a proposal to exchange Israeli settlers in the West Bank and Gaza with Palestinians holding Israeli nationality in Israel, the pre-1948 Palestinians. They also rejected an Israeli proposal separating security and police missions and confining the mission of Palestinian police to certain areas in the West Bank and Gaza. The Palestinians also demanded that the Israelis not intervene in the general elections that will be held in the occupied territories to elect the Palestinian authority that will supervise during the interim period.

According to the Palestinian source, the Palestinian side also demanded that they have their own port, a land

crossing, and an airport, and must also supervise the corridor that will link Gaza with Jericho.

The Palestinian official disclosed that the Israelis and the Palestinians are on the brink of signing a political agreement on the Gaza-Jericho First proposal in the upcoming 11th round of talks. He said the Palestinian-Israeli security negotiations, which the United States has been supervising for several months, have largely helped bring political viewpoints closer.

The Palestinian official said that Mr. Mindlon conveyed to Mr. Nawfal an official Israeli invitation for a number of Palestinian security planners to visit Israel to continue talks on the pending security issues.

The Palestinian official said that after consulting Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinians welcomed the Israeli invitation.

PLO Version of Coordination Paper Published

JN2608170893 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Aug 93 p 16

[By Riyadh Mansur]

[Text] SAWT AL-SHA'B has acquired the full text of the changes that the PLO has introduced to the Jordanian-Palestinian paper on the nature of the work of the six committees, which was published in SAWT AL-SHA'B the day before yesterday. The Palestinian response to the Jordanian paper includes major adjustments on all points in the paper with the exception of points relating to the committees' mode of actions.

The following is the full text of the Palestinian paper:

Introduction

Based on the policies of the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships and the 20 October 1991 agreement between the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO to establish a confederation between Jordan and Palestine, the Jordanian and the Palestinian sides will work to realize Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including holy Jerusalem, and ensuring the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people on their national soil and in accordance with international legitimate resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338, the land-for-peace principle, and ensuring the success of the peace process to realize their goals.

To achieve this, the two sides will endeavor to reach the following:

Coordination Mechanism

In order for the coordination process to achieve its purpose, the coordination mechanism should be on the following levels:

- The Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee;
- The specialized joint committees evolving from the higher committee.

The Higher Joint Committee

The higher committee's first duty is to lay out a vision of future comprehensive relations between Jordan and Palestine proceeding from the following principles:

1. The need to formulate strategic visions based on joint higher interests within the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation; this vision is governed by the principle of a free and voluntary choice of the two fraternal peoples and in light of the historical relations and close ties that unite them;

2. Linking future visions with plans proposed within the negotiations in order to promote the primary aim, i.e., restoring the occupied territories, including holy Jerusalem, and the Palestinian people's national rights;

3. Taking the initiative to present Arab alternatives for future regional cooperation and responding to alternatives proposed by other quarters in the United States and Israel in a way that would protect Arab interests and the interests of the Jordanian and Palestinian sides.

The Higher Joint Committee, which was formed in accordance with the list attached to addendum No. 1, will be in charge of the following:

1. Supervising the work of the specialized committees, approving the studies and recommendations made by these specialized committees, and adopting the specialized committees' recommendations and decisions, which are approved by the joint committee, as policies; these policies will be adopted by the executive bodies of the two sides and their representatives will adhere to these policies within the Arab, regional, and international negotiating stands;

2. Taking the initiative to formulate alternatives and concepts on what may be presented at international forums, whether in order to activate a certain issue or to respond to what is presented at these forums; this will take into consideration the affect the higher committee's current activity toward future joint action has on both sides;

3. Approving information policies that serve the joint interests of both sides, especially concerning the peace process and public opinion, in which these policies will serve their goals;

4. Coordinating stands and means of cooperation among the negotiating delegations of both sides during and outside the sessions of negotiations and in coordination with the other Arab parties concerned.

The Specialized Committees

Based on an agreement reached during the first meeting of the higher Jordanian-Palestinian committee, the following specialized committees were formed:
1. The Jerusalem Committee.

2. The Refugees Committee.
3. The Security and Border Committee.
4. The Laws and Legislations Committee.
5. The Economic Committee.
6. The Water Committee.
7. The Information, Culture, and Science Committee.

The Jerusalem Committee

The two sides will strive to include holy Jerusalem under the Palestinians' territorial jurisdiction in any phased agreement that could be reached, given that Jerusalem is part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967. Moreover, the two sides will formulate plans to raise the Jerusalem issue on various levels. Given the historical and religious nature of the holy city, the two sides will also strive to ensure the formation of a Jerusalem committee within the framework of the multilateral talks. This is important if the Palestinian demographic identity of the city is to be safeguarded, and if the efforts to Judaize the city are to be thwarted.

From this premise, the committee's tasks shall be as follows:

- To prepare legal studies that outline the rights the Arab side has in Jerusalem as well as the historical bases of these rights;
- To draw up plans for housing and reconstruction projects in East Jerusalem;
- To coordinate the negotiating stands as well as the stands of both sides on the international scene in order to confront the Israeli claims to Jerusalem;
- To prepare studies to preserve Awqaf properties, safeguard Islamic and Christian holy places, and coordinate the two sides' stands on this;
- To study the controls, limitations, and supervision regarding the purchase of real estate in Jerusalem to safeguard its Arab character.

The Refugees Committee

While acknowledging that the refugee issue is primarily a Palestinian issue, any decision or policy on it will directly affect Jordan, as well as the other fraternal Arab states that are hosting Palestinian refugees. Therefore, the committee should carry out the following:

1. Formulate a common strategy to deal with this issue within the framework of the bilateral and multilateral negotiations on the basis of Resolution 194 and UN Security Council Resolution 237;

2. Match figures, facts, and statements on the refugees and establish a database for this purpose that will be an accredited reference for both sides;

3. Prepare the necessary studies on the refugee problem as it is now in line with how the two sides seek to settle it in the future; these studies shall tackle the economic, demographic, and social dimensions pertaining to refugees wherever they may be;

4. To formulate various concepts on how to tackle this issue in a manner that safeguards the Palestinian refugees' rights and conforms to the common policy lines of the Jordanian and Palestinian sides; Arab stands in this regard must be unified.

The Security and Borders Committee

As the issue of security and borders is one of the common issues for both parties in the peace negotiations, and as this issue affects the final solution, whether regarding regional matters or the common borders, the tasks of the Security and Borders Committee will be:

1. Working out a comprehensive concept of security, provided that this concept is the basis of the negotiating positions with others and is based on the rejection of the Israeli concept of security which is linked to expansion and settlement activity;

2. Coordinating the security process to guarantee that the special Palestinian security organs are in total control during the interim stage, and assisting in their training;

3. Preparing studies and concepts that deal with the security aspect of the future status of the occupied territories, including the borders and crossing points, in order to protect the security of Jordan and Palestine within the framework of any future peace treaty.

The Water Committee

In light of the absolute strategic importance of water issues for the two sides, and the direct impact of these issues on future economic and social development, the Water Committee will carry out the following tasks:

- Preparing water and legal studies on the rights of both Jordan and Palestine to water in their joint territories;
- Preparing studies on retrieving the water which the Israeli side plundered from both parties to pave the way for entrenching these right;
- Coordinating positions on water at regional and international forums and in bilateral and multilateral negotiations;
- Establishing a database on water;
- Working out future concepts and alternatives for joint bilateral water investment and regional water projects.

The Laws and Legislations Committee

In light of the political and socioeconomic aspects of the historic relationship between Palestinians and Jordanians, which is organized by laws and legislation that form an indivisible part of the legislative and administrative structure in the occupied West Bank, and in light of the two sides' desire to promote this relationship in the future within legal and institutional frameworks, the Laws and Legislations Committee will do the following:

- Conduct studies on legal and legislative issues in the occupied territories in terms of their connection with Jordanian laws and legislations;

- Coordinate laws and legislation that will be endorsed in the future in the political, economic, social, educational, and health fields, among other fields, in order to serve the mutual interests of the two sides in all fields; this legislation will include the issues of the economy, movement of people, and residence, etc;
- Conduct studies on laws and legislation that promote a unified legal standpoint for Palestinian rights in international forums and bilateral and multilateral working groups, within the context of international law and international agreements;
- Coordinate the use of joint expertise in the legal and legislative areas when issuing laws and legislations in the Palestinian territories.

Economic Affairs Committee [subtitle]

Since economic activity between Jordan and Palestine has always been a mainstay of the special relationship between the two peoples in the past and at present—and so it will be in the future—and given that ridding the economy of the occupied Palestinian territories of dependence on the Israeli economy and building a Palestinian national economy in accordance with a national plan for sustained economic development is a major goal and guarantee for the future of Palestine, the Economic Affairs Committee will do the following:

- Draft conceptions and project studies regarding the Palestinian economy; these conceptions and studies must address infrastructure, agriculture, industry, housing, tourism, and transportation in light of the policy aimed at achieving economic integration; this endeavor must aim to enhance the joint economy and interests of the two fraternal peoples;
- Formulate ideas regarding coordination in the areas of currency, funds, monetary and financial policy, various specialized banking institutions, other financial activities, and customs; special emphasis must be placed on joint investment endeavors;
- Conduct studies and present ideas on bilateral trade, that is, the movement of goods and services between Jordan and Palestine;
- Present views, alternatives, and studies on bilateral projects and specify the features and priorities of these projects;
- Ensure coordination and cooperation between the statistics institutions in the two fraternal countries;
- Draw up conceptions and conduct studies on energy issues and on linking Arab electricity networks;
- Give special attention to scientific research centers and to technology transfer to promote economic and social development;
- Conduct joint studies to evaluate joint Arab development projects;
- Evaluate regional development projects and draw up pertinent recommendations regarding them.

The Information, Culture, and Science Committee

The tasks of this committee should be as follows:

- To address the world and Israeli public opinion to highlight the components of just and comprehensive peace, and expose the attempts to obstruct the peace process as well as the dangers posed by settlement activities, repression, and collective punishment;
- To coordinate in the area of training technical departments and staff;
- To enhance bilateral cultural cooperation in various domains, to mark cultural events, and to bolster ties between cultural and art associations.

Committees' Method of Operation

Taking into account the fact that the specialized committees will be mainly responsible for preparing and submitting recommendations to the higher committee, these committees are expected to comprise a sufficient number of specialists. These committees will have the right and the opportunity to seek others' experience if necessary. Whether such experts are individuals or institutions, the committees' method of operations is expected to be within the following framework:

- Each side will name its members at the specialized committees as soon as this document is endorsed;
- A committee will comprise a maximum of six persons on each side and a minimum of two persons;
- A coordinator from each side will be named in each committee;
- The specialized committees will meet when necessary at least once monthly or whenever the higher committee so requests; the meeting's venue and date will be set through consultations between the heads of both sides in the committee;
- The two coordinators of each committee will submit a joint report and recommendations to the higher committee through the head of the higher committee on each side;
- The higher committee will meet at least once bimonthly or when necessary through coordination and consultations between the heads of both sides;
- When adopting any recommendation, the higher committee will define ways to implement, agree on, follow up, and verify the implementation of any recommendation; any adopted recommendation will be circulated among officials on each side.

Appendix No. 1: Members of the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee

The Jordanian Side

- Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar, minister of information.
- Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs.
- Dr. Muhammad Mahdi al-Farhan, minister of municipal and rural affairs and environment.
- Bassam Qaqish, minister of water and irrigation.
- Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs.

The Palestinian Side

- Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member.
- Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member.
- Yasir 'Amr, PLO Executive Committee member.
- Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, PLO Executive Committee member.
- Sulayman al-Najjab, PLO Executive Committee member.
- Faysal al-Husayni, head of the steering committee of the negotiating delegation.
- Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador to Jordan.

PLO Said Turning PLA Command Into Security Force

JN2708121793 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Aug 93 p 22

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] The PLO has begun to turn the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA], the Badr Forces, into a Palestinian security force.

A Palestinian diplomatic source, who declined to give a name, told AL-RA'Y that about 100 officers, noncommissioned officers, and privates of the Badr Forces, affiliated with the PLA, were graduated a few days ago.

Faysal al-Husayni visited the PLA, Badr Forces Command, last month for this purpose.

Kuwaiti Decision To Exclude al-Bidun From Army Deplored

PM2608103093 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 25 Aug 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Kuwaiti Fear and Its Remedy"]

[Text] It is understandable and justifiable for the Kuwaitis—government and people—to fear for their future. But what is difficult to understand is the method—or methods—used by the Kuwaiti Government to remedy this fear and tackle its causes.

The day before yesterday the Kuwaiti Government issued an amiri decision allowing the admission of non-Kuwaiti military men or volunteers to the Kuwaiti Armed Forces. A clarification memorandum attached to the new law said that "the motive behind this is the need to remove elements whose complete loyalty is not certain and to avoid the possibility of their abandoning their military duty due to their lacking the motive for sacrifice."

The main aim of this legal amendment is to remove the al-bidun group [stateless Arabs] from the Armed Forces and to replace them with troops from other Arab states, on the grounds that they lack motivation for defending the homeland, as the official statement said.

The al-bidun group used officially to refer to a group of Arabs who have entered and lived in Kuwait over the past 40 years. The Kuwaiti Government refuses to recognize that they belong to the country.

The government law assumes that they lack loyalty to the country, thus they do not have the officials' trust to join the Army and defend the country; meanwhile it stresses that other Arab volunteers holding other nationalities could be more loyal than the al-bidun group in defending Kuwait if it is exposed to a new invasion.

This Kuwaiti view lacks logic, as anyone who has lived in Kuwait and was raised there is bound to be more eager than others to defend it if it is exposed to any invasion.

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait revealed the Armed Forces' laxity in confronting it. So the al-bidun group, which constitutes one third of the Army, is not to blame. The ones to blame are the Kuwaitis who held leading positions and high ranks and set an ideal example for their troops by fleeing the country at the nearest border point.

The negligence was not limited to a particular group, nor was it in the Army only. It existed in most of the state's organs and institutions. Kuwaitis woke on 2 August 1990 to hear the news of the invasion and the flight of most officials from the country, beginning from its amir through to the chief of staff and the youngest soldier and ordinary employees. No one stayed in Kuwait except those who actually belong to Kuwait and its territory. Among them was the majority of the al-bidun group and some other Arabs.

The Kuwaiti Government's treatment of this group does not give the impression that it has understood the invasion lesson, otherwise it would have naturalized most of them, won over their loyalty, abolished discrimination between nationalities, and achieved social and political justice in the country.

If these people were living in the European and American states whose troops liberated Kuwait, they would have been considered good citizens and treated like citizens in terms of rights and duties. But now that it has guaranteed liberation and the return to power, the Kuwaiti Government has begun to ignore all these axioms and exercise its old racist practices.

The aim of writing about this abnormal phenomenon in Kuwait is to expose it and prevent it from spreading, on the grounds that it is a contagious disease, especially in the Arab and Gulf environment.

Egypt

Cairo Reports Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman's Indictment

NC2608184993 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The U.S. authorities have indicted Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman in connection with the explosion of New York's World Trade Center in February in which six people were killed.

The U.S. authorities also indicted Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman and 14 of his followers, including defendant Nusayr who is currently in a New York jail, for involvement in a plot to blow up the United Nations Headquarters and other buildings in the United States and for conspiring to assassinate several world leaders and U.S. politicians.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman is expected to be deported from the United States because of incorrect papers with which he was granted an entry visa into the United States.

Authorities Arrest 2 'Terrorists'; Explosives Found

NC2608190593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA)—The Interior Ministry's security agencies have arrested the fugitive terrorist 'Abd-al-'Ati 'Abd-al-Hamid Muhammad and fellow terrorist Jahlan Mahmud. Investigations proved that the first terrorist gave instructions to other terrorists and monitored the movements of the Armant police chief and the head of the detectives department in Qina Governorate.

Terrorist 'Abd-al-'Ati 'Abd-al-Hamid Muhammad admitted that his fellow terrorist Jahlan Mahmud had trained him to make bombs.

A security forces unit arrested terrorist Jahlan Mahmud in his hideout. While searching his house, the unit discovered manuals on making explosives charges and their components, Molotov cocktails, hand grenades, explosives, and incendiary material.

A homemade map showing areas in which he planned to carry out terrorist acts was also found in Jahlan Mahmud's home.

The arrest is part of concerted efforts to hunt down terrorists in implementation of a comprehensive security plan entrusted to groups from the state security intelligence and criminal investigation agencies.

The Interior Ministry affirms that the security authorities are continuing their efforts to arrest other fugitive terrorists that the two suspects told of. The Supreme State Security Prosecution has been notified to investigate.

Lab Report Gives Details on Explosives Charge

NC2608202593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1511 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA)—The criminology laboratory's final report on the failed assassination attempt against Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi on al-Shaykh Rayhan Street last week has revealed that the total weight of the explosives charge was 28 kg, composed of 3.2-mm-thick iron pieces. A total of 22 kg of these pieces were retrieved from the scene of the crime.

A report prepared under the supervision of Major General Husayn Tawfiq, assistant interior minister and director of the Criminal Evidence Department, revealed that the charge included more than 6 kg of dynamite mixed with ball bearings. It was connected to electric fuses operated by the motorcycles's battery with new electrical wiring and an ordinary electrical switch. [passage omitted]

The laboratory report added that on 21 August, experts from the laboratory inspected a metals workshop in Kafr al-Manfa in the Pyramids area, which was used by the terrorists in preparing explosives charges.

In cooperation with officers from the State Security Investigations Bureau, the experts found newly prepared explosives charges similar to that used in the al-Shaykh Rayhan crime. A booby-trap ready to go off was also found in the place. It was connected to three 9-volt batteries.

The report notes that the workshop contained the instruments needed to prepare the charge, in addition to traces of powder dynamite similar to that used in the interior minister's case.

A recent issue of a newspaper and fresh food discovered in the workshop indicate that the place was used a few hours before the inspection.

Senior Intelligence Figures Among 20 Israelis Held

NC2608120393 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that 20 Israelis have been detained for aiding and planning recent terrorist operations in the country. They include some who hold senior military positions in the Israeli military intelligence service. They are in addition to others who were deported for lack of concrete evidence of their involvement in the terrorist incidents.

Cairo has refused to receive the head of the Israeli military intelligence service. According to reports, the Israeli official intended to talk to Egyptian security officials about new Israeli memoranda denying Israeli involvement in terrorist incidents in Egypt.

The reports also said the head of the Israeli military intelligence service wanted to discuss the release of three Israelis who hold senior posts in the Israeli army. He was coming to Egypt on an official Israeli Government

mission to talk to Egyptian security officials about the Israeli view on limiting the spread of violence and terrorism in Egyptian society. This view would be based on security cooperation between Israel and Egypt.

Chief Editor Calls For Dialogue With 'Hardliners'

NC2608170993 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Aug 93 pp 1, 9

[Article by Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn: "Have Mercy on the People and Mercy on the Homeland; Smash the Cycle of Violence and Counterviolence"]

[Excerpts] We were alarmed the day before yesterday by a terrible and painful incident—an attack on the interior minister in the heart of Cairo, in the middle of the day, in a spot between the American University, the People's Assembly, and the Council of Ministers Building, and a few meters from the Interior Ministry. Most of the victims were innocent people who just happened to be there.

It was the will of almighty God that the interior minister escaped. In an article I published last Friday [13 August] under the headline "Egypt is Burning and You Are Joking," I warned against an unprecedented increase in the cycle of violence. I said the iron-fist methods will only lead to more victims among innocent people who are no party to conflict. [passage omitted]

The incident removed any sense of security and safety in this country. The problem must be seriously addressed. It is necessary to stop issuing hot statements against terrorism; these protect no one and save no child or woman on the street. The people have the right to demand a serious approach, which must be coupled with justice and the suspension of military courts.

Undoubtedly, the interior minister is a target for the hardliners. His assumption of the post was accompanied by an attempt to ease the iron-fist policy, a clear campaign against financial corruption, and an effort to purge the Interior Ministry. He carried out the largest reorganization campaign, which observers said was for the better. Nevertheless, the minister—like any minister who assumes a post now—remained a prisoner of the general policy of the state, which has been conducted under a state of emergency for the past 12 years and rejects dialogue with the hardline Islamic groups. The arrival of the minister and the removal of 'Abd-al-Halim Musa were associated with the foiling of attempts for mediation and dialogue.

We have no proof that the new minister has stopped the torture that was condemned by the court, the unbridled and random arrests, or the policy of collective revenge, which was seen in Qina, Abu Hummus, Damanhur, Rawd al-Faraj, and elsewhere. [passage omitted]

The propaganda about the rejection of dialogue must be stopped. Islam rejects this. I have often explained the Islamic shari'ah position on solving critical problems between the ruler and the opposers who resort to violence. [passage omitted]

Naturally, policemen will grumble about the iron-fist policy, which does not solve the problem, but turns the issue into an extended saga of revenge, particularly in Upper Egypt, where they pay the price first.

We demand an end to bloodshed on both sides. All are Egyptian citizens. Those who did wrong will receive their just punishment in the courts. We reject random military trials, such as the recent strange case of "the Vanguards of Conquest," which was split among five courts because of the difficulty of placing hundreds of defendants inside one dock. This is a sort of abuse of justice unprecedented in Egypt.

In a previous article, I said the greatest states negotiated with the smallest organizations (the United States, France, and Germany negotiated with terrorist organizations in Lebanon for the release of hostages). The greatest power in the world negotiates with one person when he hijacks an aircraft or holds hostages in a building in a bid to ensure the safety of the innocent hostages.

O government officials, isn't there one wise man among you who will accept the challenge? Isn't there one man who realizes that dialogue does not affect the state's prestige, but rather increases respect for it, and that the state's prestige suffers when an incident takes place in al-Tahrir Square in broad daylight? [passage omitted]

The government was not ashamed to negotiate with Israel while it carried out massacres in Lebanon. Even in the midst of the savage Israeli shelling against south Lebanon, official statements were made about the need to continue the peace talks. Why don't you regard the hardline groups as the Jews, the Zionists, and the IMF? I know this is a difficult request for a government that rejects dialogue with the Labor, the Wafd, and the National Progressive Unionist Grouping parties, as well as the Muslim Brotherhood.

We are not addressing the rulers. We have lost hope that they will do something. But we call on the people, the national forces, the al-Azhar ulema, the prominent Muslim and Christian intellectuals, and the parties to impose this dialogue and impose a genuine democracy in all aspects of life. Let the campaign for an honest presidential referendum be the test. Let us reject submission to anyone but God.

Columnist Accuses Afghanistan of Supporting Terrorism

NC2608141493 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Aug 93 p 14

["Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] Egypt courageously supported the Afghan people in their campaign to regain their will and get rid of the communist nightmare. Proceeding from the teachings of Islam, which say that all Muslims are brothers, the people of Egypt did not hesitate to extend every assistance and backing to the "Muslim" people of Afghanistan.

Could Afghanistan reward Egypt with ingratitude and disavowal after that?

All the evidence points to Afghanistan, after getting Muslim rulers, obnoxiously participating in exporting terrorism to Egypt. It provides a home for training camps and encourages terrorists and the advocates of terrorism to commit the worst crimes against our noble people, who shared their daily bread with those who called themselves—as we call them—mujahidin!

An investigation started yesterday straight after the attempt to assassinate Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi. It has revealed—according to an Interior Ministry statement—that one of the attackers—like many others—travels to and from Afghanistan without restriction. There, the attacker receives encouragement and support and at the training camps, they teach him all the "skills" of murder, robbery, and looting.

What kind of jihad is this? And to what kind of Islam do you, mujahidin, belong?

The Islam that God revealed to his noble prophet defines the traits of Muslims: faithfulness, sincerity, mercy, and good treatment of brothers, neighbors, and friends. It warns Muslims against gossip and against shedding others' blood.

But here you are, mujahidin, flagrantly disregarding all this and taking the wrong road, acting against a people whose contribution can only be denied by sinners and betrayers.

Yes, there are various factions in Afghanistan and each group perhaps blames the others for the dirty crimes. But these justifications are unacceptable. When Egypt supported you, it did not differentiate between this group and that; it treated you all in accordance with the ethics established by our religion—ethics that now have no place in Afghanistan, irrespective of who is in power and who has control.

Column Discusses Challenges Facing Libya

NC2608130693 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 20 Aug 93 p 12

["From Friday to Friday" column by Mursi 'Atallah]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] We—the chief editors of Egyptian newspapers—had a long and fruitful session with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi after the banquet thrown in honor of President Mubarak and his delegation in the ancient al-Hamra' Palace in Tripoli overlooking the Mediterranean coast. Many ships gathered to sound their horns to salute Libya's great guest.

I will not attempt to detail the meeting with Col. al-Qadhdhafi. I want to record my impressions of the colonel's answers to the various questions we posed. These impressions are as follows:

1. Libya has many unpublicized reasons for believing its crisis with the United States, Britain, and France is moving toward a solution. This is more than some people believe; they think it is moving toward war.

2. Libya believes Egypt's role in reducing the seriousness of the crisis with the West is historic. Libya has endless confidence that it will maintain this role and help to resolve the crisis.

3. The issue is no longer one of handing over the suspects; it is a matter of Libyan public opinion. It is becoming exceedingly difficult to convince the public of the need to adhere to the resolution and to try the suspects in the United States or Britain. The evidence for this is that the Libyan General People's Congress declared it accepts trying the two suspects before a neutral court. So, the principle of trying them and making them face the accusation is no longer a point of dispute. The dispute centers on the venue of the trial and the identity of the judges.

4. Libya feels the same burden as most Third World countries, which have started to feel bitter about the double standards in the new world order.

If someone asked me to evaluate the summit's results, I would say that I cannot—perhaps no one can—accurately evaluate the results, especially as much of the summit discussion was restricted to the two leaders Mubarak and al-Qadhdhafi. We noted their concern to reveal nothing other than that which circumstances allow.

I should add that regardless of the sensitivity over revealing what was discussed to confront such a complex crisis, opening the door to new diplomatic options to establish the required harmony between submitting to international legitimacy and respecting national sovereignty also opens the door to hope and optimism and decreases the pessimism that emerged after the latest tripartite warning.

Perhaps President Mubarak's stop at the al-Sallum border post on his return journey signals one of the summit's most important results for strengthening the march of integration and bilateral cooperation. [passage omitted]

I believe Libya faces a big test. Attempts to stop the crisis reaching confrontation could be more difficult than bearing the consequences of such a confrontation. But, I believe we have no better option. I also believe that in Libya they realize this very well.

Libya

JANA Editor Responds To 25 Aug VOA Commentary

LD2708093993 Tripoli JANA in English 0851 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal 27 [27 August] (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The political editor of the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY has responded to Voice of America's commentary broadcast on the 25th of August which reflects the American Government's viewpoint.

The political editor said: Despite the hardship and suffering endured by the Libyan Arab people as a result of the sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah by UN Security Council Resolution 748, the Great Jamahiriyah has spared no effort and has pursued every possible channel to ensure constructiveness and understanding, far removed from the language of threats. This was done on the assumption that the sanctions would be lifted.

The political editor of the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY highlighted the Great Jamahiriyah's repeated denunciation of international terrorism, in all its forms and from whatever source it comes from, as well as its willingness to co-operate with the international community to combat this dangerous phenomenon which even the Great Jamahiriyah was a victim of. The Great Jamahiriyah also declared that not one training camp for terrorists existed on its territory and called on the secretary general, officially to send an international committee to verify this.

The political editor added the Great Jamahiriyah had complied with all points set out [by] Security Council Resolution 731 of 1992 and informed the secretary general of the United Nations of all measures it undertook towards this end. The Great Jamahiriyah also responded to the secretary general and all his envoys in a positive manner in order to arrive at a peaceful solution to the crisis. On the subject of dealings with the French judiciary, the political editor said that the Great Jamahiriyah expressed its complete willingness to co-operate with it and that contact was still under way with the French authorities.

The political editor ended by saying that the comments made [by] Voice of America's political commentator do not serve the aims of the United Nations which strives to solve disputes with peaceful means, respect for international laws and precepts, respect for the sovereignty of nations, and the [word indistinct] of meaningful dialogue between the parties to the dispute in order to achieve peaceful solutions which would satisfy all sides. Thus, the first steps to be taken are those proposed by the various international organisations, particularly the League of Arab States, the Organisation of African Unity, the Islamic Conference Organisation, and the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Libyan Arab people, who are freely governing themselves by means of the Jamahiriyah system based on peoples congresses which draw up decisions and peoples committees which act on these decisions, are not afraid of threats at a time when they aspire to enlightened dialogue in order to achieve solutions which satisfy everyone involved.

Unity Secretary Meets Egyptian, AMU, Syrian Envoys

LD2608212193 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee of Unity met today with brother Mustafa al-Shadhili, head of the Arab Republic of Egypt's follow-up bureau in the Great Jamahiriyah. Issues connected with following up and implementing what was agreed to during President Husni Mubarak's visit to the Great Jamahiriyah on integration between the sons of the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt on the road of Arab unity were discussed during the meeting.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee of Unity also met with the brother ambassadors of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] in the Great Jamahiriyah. During the meeting, the means of implementing the signed agreements and programs within the framework of the Arab Maghreb Union designed to achieve integration between the members of the union on the road of achieving comprehensive Arab unity were discussed and reviewed.

The brother secretary also met with the charge d'affairs of the Syrian Arab Bureau in the Great Jamahiriyah.

During the meeting, bilateral relations and the means of consolidating and developing integration projects between the sons of the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Syria, and working toward implementing the agreements connected with these projects were discussed.

Sudan

Foreign Ministry Denies U.S. Terrorism Allegations

BK2708013493 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Aug 93 p A6

[From the "Letters" column]

[Text] The Government of the Republic of the Sudan expresses astonishment and regret over the decision taken by US government to enlist Sudan among countries it claims to be sponsoring terrorism. In this regard the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan would like to, point the following:

1. It categorically denies this baseless allegation which the American government failed to provide any evidence

whatsoever to prove. The latter failed to prove any act of terrorism committed or participated by Sudan or waged from Sudanese territory.

2. Allegation that Sudan is hosting some terroristic organizations is unfounded and is not supported by a single piece of evidence. No act of terrorism has ever been waged from Sudan. No country has submitted a single evidence of any act of such nature against Sudan. On the contrary, a number of high ranking officials from neighbouring countries have in many occasions denied such allegations against Sudan.

3. The arguments made by the American administration are too poor to constitute a material evidence that could possibly justify adoption of such a serious decision.

4. The American threat to add Sudan to the countries alleged to sponsor terrorism, has been voiced for a long time. The government of Sudan spared no effort, by different means and through direct contacts and talks with American administration to rebut accusations of terrorism. In this connection, the Government of Sudan called for arranging meetings of concerned officials from both countries to investigate such accusations. These calls went unheeded by the American administration which continued to voice the accusations. This attitude confirms the premeditated intention of the American administration to adopt the said unsubstantiated and unfair decision.

5. The position being so, and in the light of the insufficient and inadmissible evidence provided by American administration to support its allegations, the government of Sudan is confident that the main and sole reason behind the adoption of the said decision is the denial of the Islamic civilizational orientation of Sudan by the American government.

6. It is noted with regret that American government has not only overlooked the atrocities and crimes committed by the outlawed movement of John Garang, but also welcomed and received him in USA, where he was accorded an official reception. To mention but some few examples, John Garang's movement shot down a civilian plane in Malakal in 1986, shelled Juba town and killed innocent civilians in 1992, liquidated four staff members of international relief organizations in the Equatorial region this year and liquidated more than two hundred peoples who dared to desert his bloody movement in Bahr El-gazal region.

7. The American Government is keeping silent to the brutal massacres and terroristic acts committed by Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina, by Israelis in occupied Arab territories, and similar acts committed in Somalia. All these are but a concrete evidence of double standards practiced by the American administration in international politics.

8. Despite this hostile attitude of American administration the Government of Sudan would like to express keeness to continue and follow its policy of attaining peace and stability in the country and to secure flow of relief materials to all the needy in collaboration with the United Nations and voluntary organizations.

[Signed] Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sudan

Tunisia

Accord on Trade Regulation Signed With Libya

LD2708105893 Tripoli JANA in English 0810 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Tunis, Hannibal 27 [27 Aug], (JAMAHRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The minutes of the meeting for the follow-up of the accords signed by the Great Jamahariyah and Tunisia within the framework of the joint higher committee between the two sisterly countries was signed yesterday morning in Tunis.

The minutes was signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Trade, Commerce and Finance and on the Tunisian side by the Minister of the Economy Sadiq Rabha.

The two sides agreed in this [word indistinct] on taking the necessary measures to avoid the negative effects accompanying the liberalization of trade exchanges through an effective control by the two countries in matters relating to customs, health, vet issues and agricultural quarantine.

Regarding the transit system and the importance of transit and the arbitrary coercive measures to which the Great Jamahariyah is subjected due to the invalid Resolution 748 and awaiting a draft agreement in his respect, it was agreed that the imported goods to the Great jamahariyah by the public companies and institutions will be exempt from financial guarantee and replaced by a moral guarantee by the Libyan Arab consulates in Tunisia.

Also it was agreed that the Libyan Arab importers other than public companies and institutions will be enabled to present banking guarantees and creating financial guarantees in hard currency or directly in Tunisian dinar or [words indistinct] Tunisian customs agents provided that the banking institutions will accept to exchange these financial guarantees on departure in accordance with the currency exchange arrangements in force.

Also it was decided that noncommercial goods will be exempted from such guarantees [words indistinct] at a detailed list regarding them obtain the appropriate seal from the customs at the port of entry and to be controlled and sealed by the customs on the port of departure.

Regarding the positioning of joint border posts, the Tunisian side suggested facilitating the control of goods and products and simplifying the measures of transit by setting up side to side customs offices at the border

points provided that the customs departments in the two countries should study the preparation of a draft agreement in this respect.

The two sides recommended the need to create a committee for [words indistinct] -Tunisian customs cooperation to follow up the implementation of all agreements, removing obstacles to the flow of goods and combat commercial practices which do not serve the unterest of the two sisterly countries.

The two sides reaffirmed the agreement reached in the minutes of the meeting of the economic and financial committee dated 24/1/1993 relating to the implementation of unionist projects in accordance to available financing resources and providing studies on each project.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the development seen by trade exchanges between the two countries within the last [word indistinct] years especially after the application of the trade and customs accord. They called for an increase in trade exchanges and the intensification so as to be able to exploit all available production means in the two sisterly countries.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning, Trade and Finance made a speech on this occasion lauding the positive results achieved by the meeting. He asserted that the decisions reached by the technical committees [word indistinct] the fraternal understanding which exist between the Great Jamahariyah and Tunis.

The Tunisian minister of the economy on his part highlighted the desire of President Ben Ali to harness all economic forces in Tunisia for the service of the mutual interests of the two sisterly countries.

He pointed out that the results achieved by this meeting constituted a further nucleus along the path of consolidating fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries.

He stressed that the results of the meeting showed once more that fraternal relations between the two countries stemmed from a common history and civilization and based on a futuristic view within the framework of the Arab Maghreb Union which will give [words indistinct] position to the Arab people in the region on the international [word indistinct].

Saudi Arabia

Plane Leaves with Food, Medicine for Bosnia-Herzegovina

LD2608174393 Riyadh SPA in English 1254 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, Aug 26, SPA—In line with directives of custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, a Saudi plane, carrying 26 tons of food and medical supplies in aid, left today King Khalid international airport to provide relief to brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina, said Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh Province. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Returns From Foreign Tour 26 Aug

JN2608165193 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], returned to Abu Dhabi from Alexandria this afternoon after a visit of several days to Egypt.

During his visit to Egypt, the UAE president held talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on current Arab developments, Arab solidarity, issues of common interest, and bilateral ties.

The UAE president had earlier visited Morocco. Prior to his Morocco visit, he made private visits to Britain and Switzerland.

Yemen

Bidders Detail Natural Gas Extraction Proposals

JN2608204293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The Higher Council for Economic, Oil, and Investment Affairs this morning met under Prime Minister brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, who is also council chairman. The council debated the topics on its agenda. The council examined the gas exploitation project in the Ma'rib area.

During the meeting, views were exchanged regarding the technical and economic conditions offered by the firms Hunt, Exxon, [name indistinct], as well as [name indistinct] and company.

The Council listened to explanations on these offers provided by technical representatives of these firms.

The Yemeni News Agency, SABA', has learned that this project will be one of the most monumental economic and investment projects in the Republic in view of the country's immense gas reserves. This project will extract gas that could be used locally for industrial purposes, as well as domestically. Natural gas exports will immensely boost the national economy, particularly since gas represents the future source of energy which the world views as [words indistinct].

Saddam Hails Tribe's Condemnation of Defector

JN2608180193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Aug 93

["Text" of letter from President Saddam Husayn in reply to a cable from officials of the al-Jubur tribe in Babil Governorate]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers Shaykh Sa'd Hamzah 'Alwan, Yasin 'Alwan 'Abbud, and Nazim Hamzah 'Alwan. God's peace be upon you.

I have read the cable you sent to us on 24 August 1993, which was published in the newspapers on Wednesday, 25 August, and Thursday, 26 August. I was very satisfied with this firm, unambiguous stand that reflected no wavering between right and falsehood, and between the virtue of a sincere stand and the vice of its opposite.

Among the things that show the traits of sincere believers, led by the Arabs of virtue and faith, is that they keep their pledges, promises, and oaths.

I have told you, and other stalwart Iraqis who called on us to make a pledge in the name of God, to adhere to virtue and take a sincere, honest national stand toward the states of the aggression and toward the masterminds who devise evil plans, including the unfair embargo against Iraq: Your position and pledge under oath, making God and all the people bear witness to it, will be marked by history, after God blesses it eternally, as an expression of jihad that befits the great, struggler people of Iraq and its good men. I affirmed to you that this position will be one of the landmarks of justice and truth in the immortal Mother of Battles, in which all banners rallied around the banner of God is Great.

When you vowed that you will sanction in the name of the law the killing of those who betray the trust of the position, the homeland, and the people, perhaps some of those who have lost confidence and accurate perception thought that was mere talk in the presence of Saddam Husayn and that it might not be always remembered by those who took the oath once they leave and its atmosphere and go about their daily business.

This honorable position of yours serves as the banner of our fight with heretics and traitors. It is the banner of our fight, raised by all those who declare that they are a living part of the assembly of faith, jihad, and virtue in the Mother of Battles. This banner lends credence to the solemn oath before God and the people.

Brothers: I tell you and the faithful assembly that those who deserve to uphold great principles, which have great significance, are always willing to offer sacrifices for them, even if this involved martyrdom. Those who persistently stand against these principles, on the other hand, deserve death, since the moment they take such a stand, they lose everything living in their hearts, minds, and consciences.

Perhaps you have not forgotten how the early Muslims fought with the ranks of the mujahidin. Some of them would not say hello to members of their families and tribes when they ran into them. Perhaps you also remember how some Ba'thists fought their parents and how their parents fought them in the period of the anti-Arabist and communist tyranny during the rule of 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim, and how the people, led by the Ba'thists, achieved victory over the enemies of God and the nation, because they had a spirit of faith when they confronted those who committed evil, brutal actions stemming from a treasonous, wrongful spirit.

We do not forget the great banners of faith upheld by the faithful men of al-Qadisiyah, who punished their parents for having departed from true positions. We also remember how some glorious women informed on their husbands, brothers, and sons when they used to deviate from the right path of virtue and the values of believers, or when they collaborated with the foreigner, despite their full awareness that the penalty of such a stand was death, in accordance with the law. However, out of our appreciation for the honorable stand of the glorious women, we used to commute the sentence or pardon them.

Brothers: We want to describe the action and the stand because we do not want any opportunity to pass without giving a significant description of good actions, in addition to a faithful historical record. The foreigners and their agents should not entertain any illusions—because they usually do—that our message to you is evidence of the great weight of those who betrayed the trust, and thus pay them more than the crumbs they are looking for. Those who are regarded as worthless, even by their own family, to whom they once belonged, can absolutely have no significant weight for the people to whom they used to belong. We thank God that our enemies have on their side those whose weight is less than that of a fly, while we have on our side and within our ranks people of great weight.

Brothers Shaykh Sa'd Hamzah 'Alwan, Yasin 'Alwan 'Abbud, and Nazim Hamzah 'Alwan: Your firm, clear stand toward the state of treason and toward the choice to side with the foreigner deserves the badge of the Mother of Battles, and describes you and your parents, in recognition by the leadership of the march that your position has great significance and lends vigor and resourcefulness to the Mother of Battles foundations, along the path of true, honest jihad. This is the stand that constitutes the right description that the al-Jubur tribe in al-Hillah takes pride in. This stand qualifies as a description for their gathering. The stand taken by those who were beguiled by the devil's illusions and the filth of dishonorable service to the foreigners is only an isolated, individual stand that represents only the person who took it.

I invoke the sacredness of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad to ask God to make the believers stronger, mightier, and more capable, and to grant them a high status, and lead the defeated astray. God is great. May the lowly be defeated.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn

[Dated] 9 Rabi' 'Awwal 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 26 August 1993

[Baghdad INA in Arabic at 1620 GMT on 26 August carries the text of the letter sent by Saddam Husayn to the three figures from al-Jubur tribe in Babil Governorate, adding at the end of the letter the following: "President Saddam Husayn had received a cable from Shaykh Sa'd Hamzah 'Alwan, Yasin 'Alwan 'Abbud, and Nazim Hamzah 'Alwan from al-Jubur tribe in Babil Governorate, published by AL-THAWRAH newspaper today, declaring they have disowned Hamid 'Alwan 'Abbud [al-Juburi] until the Day of Judgment.

"They added in their cable that after consultation between them, they have declared that the abovementioned person will be pursued by their tribe, kinsmen, and family until the Day of Judgment. They sanctioned his killing as a result of his rebellion and disobedience of the orders of the leadership, violation of the pledge and oath, betrayal of the trust, abandonment of his faith and principles, acceptance of falsehood after guidance, and abandonment of the ranks of the soldiers of justice and the men of leader struggler Saddam Husayn."]

Minister Urges West To Reconsider 'Aggressive' Policies

JN2608185093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1727 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (INA)—Iraq has called on the governments of the United States, Britain, and France to reconsider their aggressive policies against it and to stop using the Sanctions Committee for mean political purposes against its unyielding people.

In a letter addressed by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Iraq also called on the governments of other nation members of the committee, which have no political aims and which represent the majority, to firmly oppose the conduct of the representatives of the United States and Britain, to put an end to the series of resolutions that are hostile to the people of Iraq and disgraceful to the international community and the United Nations.

In his letter, the foreign minister revealed the wicked methods used by the representatives of the three states on the committee, aimed at tightening the unfair embargo on the Iraqi people, especially in basic civilian and humanitarian areas, to achieve political purposes that have nothing to do with the resolutions of the Security Council and the UN Charter.

The following is the text of the foreign minister's letter:

Your Excellency UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, New York;

Your Excellency: I would like you to note my letter of 5 July 1993, which addressed the decisions made by the UN Sanctions Committee established in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 661. These decisions were made during the committee's 93th meeting. Now, I would like to draw your attention to the decisions this committee made during its 97th meeting. The decisions made during this meeting show that the U.S., British, and French representatives have continued to premeditatedly dictate to the committee the decisions it makes in order to tighten the noose of the unfair embargo around the Iraqi people's necks, particularly in the areas of civilian and basic humanitarian requirements. The objective of all this is to achieve political goals that have nothing to do with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the UN Charter.

The following are only samples and examples of the requests rejected by the aforesaid three delegates in the aforementioned meeting:

1. The U.S. representative opposed Iraq's request to import 4,000 sacks of the paint "Shellac" used to paint desks and blackboards at schools. When the Moroccan representative drew the attention of the committee to the fact that this material is important for schools, emphasizing that it is not a raw material, the U.S. representative persisted with his objection, contending that it is not a basic commodity. The objection voiced by the U.S. representative needs no comment. This is because the provisions enshrined in the UN Charter can in no conceivable way, in letter or spirit, prohibit the export of such a material to Iraq. It is also inconceivable for the relevant UN Security Council resolutions to prohibit such a thing. Moreover, such materials are civilian requirements that contribute to the educational process. They are badly needed by hundreds of thousands of children and youth at Iraqi schools, institutes, and colleges.

2. The British representative objected to the import of 130 tonnes of printing ink by the Iraqi Ministry of Education on the pretext that ink is not a basic commodity, whereas the New Zealand representative said that this request must be approved, particularly since the committee endorsed similar requests in the past. For his part, the Moroccan representative said that ink is a basic commodity. But, the U.S. representative contended that there should be no talk of precedents. Ink is an end product used in books and publications, which are extremely vital for the educational process, and instrumental in offering people unimpeded access to science and education, a right enshrined in heavenly faiths and human rights conventions. It is a basic right for the Iraqi people, who invented writing for mankind and whose civilization and culture date back to 6,000 years.

3. The U.S. representative objected to two requests to export 100,000 meters of cotton products and 5,000 kg of white weaving threads, under the pretext that this material is used in manufacturing textiles.

These materials are meant for civilian use to meet humanitarian needs and serve only the purpose for which they were imported. The objection of the U.S. representative is meant to obstruct and refuse any

request for materials of civilian use and humanitarian nature, in order to cause more harm to the Iraqi economy.

4. The British and French representatives objected to a request to export 5250 boxes of primary auto paints, on the pretext that they were for private cars. The French and Japanese representatives also objected to exporting 58,000 tires. The French representative objected to exporting 3750 boxes of polyester paint with a car drier under the pretext mentioned above. The representatives of these countries have persistently rejected any request to export car accessories under the pretext that they are meant for private cars. There is no legal evidence or logical justification for this pretext in connection with the Security Council resolutions concerning Iraq.

Large sectors of the Iraqi people depend on private vehicles for transportation inside or between cities, especially in light of the difficulties arising from the lack of spare parts, which public transportation vehicles are suffering, as a result of the comprehensive blockade. Such objections can only be taken to serve the premeditated, suspect political aim of tightening the blockade against the Iraqi people.

On this occasion, I would like to point out that in their rejections some committee members do not take into consideration the contents of the report of Martti Ahtisaari, the UN secretary general's envoy, following his visit to Baghdad 10-17 April 1991, a report the UN secretary general sent to the UN Security Council president in his letter dated 30 April 1991.

Your Excellency, the refusal at that meeting to supply the materials which have a basic humanitarian and civilian nature should clarify to you and to the international community the political purposes behind the U.S. and British governments stands within the committee.

The premeditated political purposes behind such stands are a desperate attempt to influence the free, national, and independent will of Iraq and the Iraqi people. Facts over the past three years of the unjust blockade have irrefutably proved how mistaken and dangerous those who uphold such mean political purposes are.

The Iraqi people vehemently disapprove of the stands of the U.S. and British governments, and this makes them cling more to their national and free will. These governments should review their inimical policies to Iraq and the Iraqi people and stop using this committee for their suspect purposes.

Iraq calls on the governments of the other nation members of the committee, who form the majority and who have no political aims, to strongly oppose the behavior of the two representatives of the U.S. and British governments and to put an end to the series of resolutions that are hostile to the Iraqi people and disgraceful to the international community and the United Nations.

I ask you to distribute this letter as one of the UN Security Council's documents.

Your Excellency, please accept my best regards. [Signed] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq, Baghdad, 8 Rabi' al-Awwal, 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 26 August 1993

Letter Protests Recent U-2 Overflights to UN

JN2608114593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] New York, 26 Aug (INA)—Iraq has once again protested to the United Nations the continued violations of its airspace by the U.S. U-2 spy plane under the guise of conducting aerial surveys for the UN Special Commission.

A letter Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf addressed to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali yesterday, said that this plane violated Iraqi airspace on 12, 18, and 22 August, flying from its air base on Saudi territory. It overflew various areas in northern, central, and southern Iraq for periods ranging from three to more than five hours, after which the plane left Iraqi airspace for its air base on Saudi territory.

The letter noted that these three violations have raised the number of violations committed by this plane to 157 thus far. The letter condemned these violations and reaffirmed Iraq's position that this plane is being used for purposes other than those mandated by the UN Security Council, and that its activities undermine Iraq's sovereignty and security.

Aircraft Sorties Protested

JN2708120593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Aggressive U.S aircraft have continued their violations of Iraqi airspace for provocation and surveillance purposes.

A memorandum of protest, which the Iraqi envoy to the United Nations sent to the UN secretary general and asked that it be distributed as a UN Security Council document, says that between 16 and 23 August, U.S. aircraft conducted 564 sorties over various parts of Iraq.

Reasons for Recent Targeting of UN Given

JN2608184193 Baghdaa BABIL in Arabic 26 Jun 93 p 1

[Editorial: The United Nations: A Passage To Decline"]

[Text] The UN headquarters is now a target for attacks. It was announced that a plan was uncovered to attack the UN headquarters and kill its Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. The plan was part of a larger scheme to blow up two tunnels that link Manhattan and New York City.

Is this an ordinary development? Of course not. Military attacks on the UN headquarters, as an institution, have always been highly unlikely. Attacking UN figures or delegations was possible. Now, however, the organization itself is the target. Why? The answer is very simple and very clear. The United States has transformed the United Nations into a tool to interfere in the affairs of other nations, violate their sovereignty, and kill thousands of their people by bullets or starvation.

The world body therefore no longer represents humanity at large. It is also no longer a forum—even for speech—to defend the oppressed. The United Nations is now a vicious tool for killing and suppression employed to violate the sovereignty of nations. It has become a biased party in international and regional disputes. Therefore, it is now expected that this organization will become a target of freedom fighters.

Observe what the United States is doing in the name of the United Nations in Yugoslavia, Somalia, and Iraq if you want to know the reason for humanity's outrage at the United Nations.

Cooperation With Yemen Causes 'Problems' for Exiles

JN2708103293 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Thousands of Iraqis have been forced to leave Iraq because of atrocities by the terrorist authorities and irresponsible policies of aggression. News sources now say Iraqi citizens opposing the tyrannical 'Aflaqite regime and residing in Yemen are being exposed to [word indistinct] harassment forcing them to leave for Europe and America. Citing a press report issued in Sanaa and published in London, these sources say that the cooperation between the tyrant's regime and the Yemeni regime has caused problems for the Iraqi refugees in Yemen, such as failure to (?renew) resident permits, thus forcing them to leave Yemen for other countries.

Tens of thousand of Iraqi families have been forced to leave Iraq via Turkey, Jordan, or other countries to live in tragic circumstances outside the homeland because of the terrorism of the Saddamist regime and its inhuman measures against our Iraqi people.

PLO Headquarters in Gaza Rejected 'In Principle'

TA2708083093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Israel rejects in principle the PLO proposal that 'Arafat establish a headquarters in the Gaza Strip. This was said this morning by sources in the Israeli delegation to talks with the Palestinians. Our correspondent Net-an'el Semrik reports that according to the sources this proposal gives expression to Palestinian independence, something that is contrary to the Israeli position.

Two of the chief Israeli negotiators, Elyaqim Rubinstein and Uri Lubrani, will meet today with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in anticipation of their departure to Washington.

Rabinovich on 'Mixed Signals' From Damascus

TA2708080693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation for talks with Syria, this weekend will hold intensive preparations toward the resumption of the peace talks. For this reason he even postponed his first appearance at the National Press Club in Washington. Ambassador Rabinovich, in an interview with our correspondent in Washington, Arye Golan, gave an affirmative answer to the question of whether the 11th round will be different and more successful than the previous rounds:

[Begin recording] [Rabinovich] I indeed think so. This is not merely an assessment. Whoever listens to what Palestinian and Syrian spokesmen are saying can hear them say this. The Palestinians are more explicit about it, while the Syrians—as is their want—are more circumspect. This, however, is the music coming from the direction of our partners for next week's talks.

[Golan] Do you believe the veracity of the remarks attributed to Hafiz al-Asad in a closed forum in Damascus, namely that Syria has actually decided in principle to forge an arrangement with Israel, and that now they are dealing with the details of peace?

[Rabinovich] Let me say this: Since al-Asad's meeting with Christopher several weeks ago, we have seen mixed signals from Damascus, some of them more encouraging than others. Among the encouraging signs, I can cite reports of Western diplomats about a different atmosphere emanating from Damascus, as well as reports on private talks such as the one just you referred to. This is why I am inclined to believe the report you mentioned.

[Golan] Al-Asad also said a short time ago that Israel is still Syria's enemy.

[Rabinovich] As I said, the picture or signs coming out of Damascus are unfortunately mixed. On the one hand there were some positive statements, but on the other there were some which were less positive. When we speak about public diplomacy we are referring to positive deeds, to positive declarations in the media which are mainly aimed at Syrian public opinion, but also at the Israeli public and leadership. This diplomacy is supposed to convey the message that Syria has crossed a red line, has crossed the Rubicon. To use al-Sadat's expression from the late 1970's: No more war. This is indeed a very explicit message. Apparently al-Asad does not favor this method. For him public diplomacy means that Syria must prove to the Arab public that while it might advance in the peace process, it has not abandoned its principles. This perhaps serves al-Asad's internal and pan-Arab political interests, but it does not fall in the category of what we consider to be positive public diplomacy.

[Golan] After saying all this, what expectations do you have from the Syrian track in the next round of talks?

[Rabinovich] I do not want to go into the details of the moves we are planning. But since the Syrian media and commentators said they believe the 11th round can and should be different, we will open the round by telling the Syrians we share this assessment and will make several concrete proposals which can be attractive proposals for achieving progress.

[Golan] Are you referring to new proposals which have so far not been raised in the talks between Israel and Syria?

[Rabinovich] No, some of them are old proposals. Sometimes there are good proposals which are simply premature. It is possible that some things which were raised without any results in the previous rounds will achieve more success this time.

[Golan] Will there be any new proposals?

[Rabinovich] Perhaps on the part of the Syrians.

[Golan] Not on the part of Israel?

[Rabinovich] We do not think we should add anything new next week beyond what we have now. We think that the proposals presently on the table are sufficient, if there is good will and if Damascus adopts the necessary political decisions. I believe that next Tuesday [31 August] we will be able to see if this is the case.

[Golan] Thank you very much and good luck, Ambassador Rabinovich.

Lt-Gen Baraq Comments on Negotiations With Syria

TA2708085893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Aug 93 p B3

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq by Eytan Rabin at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem after the cabinet meeting on 22 August]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Rabin] Now that the peace process is gathering momentum, could you tell us whether from a security point of view we can withdraw from the entire Golan Heights and still maintain Israel's security?

[Baraq] You do not expect me to answer that question now, at this point in the political process. It is a tough and complex question. All I can tell you is that as long as war between us and Syria remains a concrete threat we need every meter of the Golan Heights, both to defend ourselves and so as not to be taken by surprise. As a rule, I think it would be inappropriate—certainly by a man in uniform—to elaborate on the issue at such a sensitive time.

[Rabin] We are witnessing an unprecedented Syrian buildup. Only last week the Syrians received a shipment of Scud-B missiles from North Korea aboard Russian planes. Does this worry you?

[Baraq] Syria continues to build up. There is no peace between our two countries, and I am not sure that Syria knows for a fact that there will be peace with us. Also, I do not think Syria will disband its army and turn it into rural societies if there is peace with us. In my opinion, Syria continues to build up whenever the opportunity arises to buy cheap equipment from the East in a bid to grow stronger and obtain materiel used in times of war, such as surface-to-surface missiles. We do not ignore that for one minute. This buildup is of cumulative relevance in the long run. It is not marginal, not when it comes to the range and quality of these missiles or to their conventional weapons. I estimate that we and Syria will continue to build up for the duration of the political process. We will have to strengthen our army even after a peace agreement is attained—if it is attained—so as not to find ourselves solely dependent on this agreement. We are surrounded with enemies with which we have no peace agreements, and if a peace agreement is attained with our neighbors it will be based on the fact that we are militarily strong. Appropriate security arrangements can help that.

[Rabin] Are we trying to prevent the missile shipments to Syria?

[Baraq] I think there is rather intense international activity to reduce the proliferation of surface-to-surface missiles. However, the problem is not with the intentions but with the results. The fact remains that North Korea sends the missiles. I would not be surprised if sometime in the future we see not only missile shipments but attempts to assemble them in Syria. [passage omitted]

[Rabin] Do you think the financial crisis afflicting the PLO and the calls to replace the leadership in Tunis attest to the disintegration of this organization?

[Baraq] I cannot make such predictions. The leadership of the PLO is the Palestinians' business. To date, 'Arafat has proved to be a formidable survivor. In any event, we are following developments, particularly those pertaining to the PLO's behavior as a terror organization.

Memorandum on Tourism With Egypt Signed in Elat

TA2608165393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Excerpt] This afternoon, the Israeli and Egyptian tourism ministers signed a cooperation agreement. Ministers Bar'am and Sultan met in Tabah and Elat, and the Egyptian minister voiced the hope that Israeli tourism to Damascus will soon cease being a dream and become reality. Our correspondent Yuval Landau reports:

[Begin recording] [Landau] The memorandum of understanding signed by the Israeli and Egyptian tourism ministers in Elat about an hour ago refers to cooperation in the field of tourism. Asked about the reason for the sparse Egyptian traffic to Israel, Egyptian Tourism Minister Fu'ad Sultan said:

[Sultan, in English] It is a matter of psychological barriers, as well as some religious barrier which has been hindering traffic from Egypt to Israel. And, that is why I am extremely confident that once peace prevails, you will find that the Egyptians will be extremely enthusiastic to come and see and visit Israel. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Islamic Jihad Unit Said Uncovered in Gaza Strip

TA2708103093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Security forces this week detained three Arabs suspected of having attacked IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in the Gaza Strip. The three are residents of Bayt Lahiyah, Khan Yunus, and Gaza. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that during searches for fugitives, an Islamic Jihad squad was uncovered. The members of this squad threw hand grenades at the security forces in the al-Shati' refugee camp over the last few weeks. Nine soldiers suffered slight injuries as a result of these attacks.

Minister on Beirut Coordination Meeting, Peace Talks

NC2708095693 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, in Amman, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Mr. Minister, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Hasan] Thank you.

[Abu-al-Majd] What are the most important topics on the agenda of the Arab cordon states' meeting in Beirut, noting that it will be held just before the 11th round of the Middle East peace negotiations and while the peace process is surrounded by many complications?

[Al-Hasan] You know that Arab coordination meetings have been going on since the opening of the Madrid peace conference in 1991. In these meetings, the foreign ministers of the Arab countries participating in the peace process and Egypt meet to conduct comprehensive assessments of the process with an emphasis on the last round. They also prepare for the next round of talks. Beirut's meeting, naturally, is a link in this chain of coordination. It will give the Arab ministers and delegations a new chance to make assessments and hold a general debate through which they can scrutinize the peace process, focusing on the 10th round and preparing for the upcoming 11th round. This will enable them to form a comprehensive outlook that will help realize the common objectives of these countries and the higher Arab interests.

As always, Jordan adheres to the peace process on the basis of known Jordanian principles, namely international legitimacy, the terms of reference for the Madrid conference, Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, a land-for-peace exchange, and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The Beirut conference is being held under extremely important circumstances. It will help the brothers have a review and an important assessment so that they can make decisions that reflect positively on us and on the entire peace process.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. Minister, are there any new Jordanian proposals for this meeting and for the upcoming round of negotiations, especially with reports about progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track and Jordan's emphasis on the need for progress on all tracks?

[Al-Hasan] Yes, indeed. There will be a Jordanian position proceeding from what we announced earlier regarding the Jordanian-Israeli track. We have an agenda, but we did not finally agree on it pending the introduction of some very slight amendments. The agenda contains broad lines, but we did not sign a final agreement pending real progress in the Palestinian-Israeli track. In this, we proceed from the principles of comprehensiveness and full Arab coordination, in which we believe.

[Abu-al-Majd] But Mr. Minister, what are the most important points of this progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track?

[Al-Hasan] As I have said previously and as has been stated by various Jordanian sources, this agenda consists of the broad outlines of the issues. The course remains a long one but regarding the agreement on this agenda, we preferred—so that we might agree with all the Arab brothers, and specifically the Palestinian delegation—not to reach a final agreement until we see that there is concrete and fundamental progress in the Palestinian track.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Jordanian capital was the scene in the past few days of intensive talks between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and senior Jordanian officials to discuss the arrangements for the transitional stage, the peace process developments, and the situation in the occupied territories. Can you tell us about the most important results of these talks, especially as reports have said that you dealt with issues such as that of the police in the occupied territories, security arrangements, etc.?

[Al-Hasan] There was Jordanian-Palestinian coordination on several aspects recently. We discussed with the Palestinian delegation a number of issues related to the peace negotiations. We hope that this coordination will continue and develop so that all of us—we, the Palestinian brothers, and all Arab parties—can maintain and develop this coordination in order to achieve the general objectives that serve the higher Arab interests.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister Talal al-Hasan, speaking to you on the telephone between Cairo and Amman, today's coordination meeting in the Lebanese capital of Beirut was preceded by an extraordinary meeting of the PLO Executive Committee and by extensive Arab contacts. Do you believe that the next round of negotiations could achieve something because of these Arab and Arab-U.S. contacts?

[Al-Hasan] We are of course optimistic, as I emphasized at the start of this talk. We in Jordan believe that this is a precious opportunity that must be seized. It is from this premise that we are committed to the peace course to achieve the comprehensive and just peace in the region. The Arab parties participating in the peace process should achieve a high level of coordination at their Beirut meeting for the sake of making the decisions that will have positive effects on us in the coming 11th round.

[Abu-al-Majd] Finally, Mr. Minister, there were statements coming from Israel before this round regarding certain measures. For example, regarding south Lebanon they talked about the signing of a peace treaty and

disarming the militias. As to the Palestinian issue, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that he believes progress will be made in this round. What is your own concept of this round as Jordanians?

[Al-Hasan] Dear brother, Beirut's coordinating meeting—just like in all other ministerial coordination meetings that had taken place—will deal with the coordination in detail and will review a number of issues. Each delegation will present its views on various issues with the aim of achieving as much coordination as possible, which must inevitably contribute to results benefiting Arab interests and the Arab parties participating in the peace process. We hope that this meeting will be a strong link in Arab coordination. I am optimistic and hope that we will achieve positive decisions and results for all of us.

[Abu-al-Majd] Brother Arabs, we thank you and thank Talal al-Hasan, Jordan's minister of state for foreign affairs. Thank you, Mr. Minister.

[Al-Hasan] Thank you.

Officials Fear Palestinian 'Transfer' to Jordan

JN2608140593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Report by Randah Habib from Amman]

[Text] Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, ambassador of the state of Palestine to Jordan, has said the Palestinians are looking forward to Israel's approval of the Palestinian Gaza-Jericho proposal. This proposal calls for full Israeli withdrawal from those areas at the start of a provisional phase in other occupied territories.

Meanwhile, Jordanian officials expressed dissatisfaction with the absence of coordination on this proposal. They noted that recent Jordanian-Palestinian meetings were designed to inform them of the matter, not to consult with them.

The Jordanian monarch has affirmed that the Palestinian leadership did not consult him about the Gaza-Jericho proposal. He said this provokes questions about the results. The king warned that the absence of coordination may mean a setback for support of Palestinian rights on their national soil.

A Jordanian official explained that in view of the absence of clarity, Jordan's fears that this proposal will result in the transfer of Palestinians to Jordan are legitimate. He said that, through this proposal, Israel can transfer Palestinians in two stages. In the first stage, the transfer would take place from the territories to Jericho, and in the second stage from Jericho to Jordan through the River Jordan bridge, which falls under the control of Israeli authorities. He said Jordan supports any Israeli withdrawal from any inch of the occupied territories. However, Jordan warns against any provisional steps without a clear vision of future steps.

Government To Raise River Pollution Issue At Peace Talks

JN2708101793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Aug 93 pp 1, 20

[By Nabil Ghazzawi]

[Excerpt] Jordan holds Israel responsible for the pollution of the River Jordan because it dumps sewage water and industrial waste into it. Only polluted saline and sewage water now flows into the river.

Answering an AL-DUSTUR question after chairing a meeting for the board of directors of the Jordan Valley Authority, in the presence of Water and Irrigation Minister Dr. Bassam Qaqish yesterday, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said that the Jordanian Government will raise this serious issue during the bilateral Israeli-Jordanian talks and the multilateral Arab-Israeli talks to make Israel stop using the river to dump sewage water, industrial waste, and fish farm water. He also noted that relevant Jordanian authorities will conduct laboratory tests on water from the river. [passage omitted]

Islamic Action Front To Debate Election Role

JN2608142793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26-27 Aug 93 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—The Islamic Action Front (IAF) is expected this weekend to vote in favour of participation in the Nov. 8 national elections after a week of infighting, and some contacts with the government, over the newly-announced one-person, one-vote electoral formula.

The IAF leadership had delayed the showdown with its 120-consultative council (majlis al-shura) until tonight [26 August] in the hope that the postponement would give its members time to "cool down" after the initial anger over the introduction of the new temporary law.

The tactic may well work since the majlis is expected to vote against boycott of the elections, but only after heated debate. The IAF had led an uproarious campaign against the replacement of the old bloc-voting Election Law with a one-person, one-vote system because it threatened to attenuate their strength in the 12th Parliament. The Muslim Brotherhood movement, the backbone of the IAF, was able to win 23 seats in the 1989 elections but is not expected to secure more than 17 seats after the change.

Initial strong opposition to the new law, among IAF members as well as other political parties, dwindled considerably after His Majesty King Husayn put his weight behind the government's decision to change the law in an address to the nation on Aug. 17.

At the time, IAF sources said that the group has found itself divided over the interpretation of at least one passage in the

speech in which the King made a direct reference to the front and called on it to live up to its name.

The "moderates" among the IAF leaders said that the direct reference to the front led them to believe that the King was appealing to the IAF not to boycott the elections and assuring the group of his recognition of its political weight.

Since then, the moderates said they needed support from official circles to influence the "hawkish" elements within the front, who interpreted the King's speech as a direct threat aimed at making them fall in line.

The postponement in taking a final decision to contest the elections was apparently aimed at giving the government and the front time to work out an agreement which could be used to sway the vote of the shura council members in favour of participation.

Although not officially confirmed, well-placed sources now say that such contacts have taken place both with the government of Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali as well as others close to the Royal Court.

The sources, while not willing to reveal the exact details of the meetings, said that the government only reluctantly entered the dialogue, since "it was confident that the Islamists had no other practical options before them."

IAF sources would not confirm their meetings with the government, hinting only that they had a meeting with political personalities who are "closer to the Royal Court." They did not reveal the details of their meetings but appeared satisfied that the moderate wing has been strengthened ahead of tonight's vote.

The consultative council, elected in December 1992, is largely composed of Muslim Brotherhood members and a few independent Islamists with close ties to the movement. Most of its members are considered "moderate" at least in wanting to avoid a confrontation with the government.

But by putting its political weight behind the moderate camp, the government alone cannot convince hardliners within the front to lie low and accept the reduced strength of the Islamists in the next Parliament.

Although not confirmed by IAF sources, close observers of the front say that the outcome of tonight's vote will be also contingent on the collective weight of the strongest members among the front's candidates for the elections.

This may mean that moderates would have to make concessions that would tempt the "hawks" into not boycotting the elections.

Concessions on the "type" of candidates for the upcoming elections to appease "hawks" may have to be considered if enough votes are to be rallied in support of participation, some analysts believe.

"The IAF may decide to contest the elections to avoid an open confrontation with the government, but that may also mean that it would have to placate the 'hawks' among its members by increasing their percentage among its candidates," an observer maintained.

New Election Law Prompting Party Alliances

JN2608192193 Amman THE STAR in English 26 Aug-1 Sep 83 p 1

[Excerpt] One week after His Majesty King Husayn's endorsement of a new election law, political parties are being increasingly pressured into coalition agreement.

At least five pro-government parties and a number of independent candidates with strong tribal base are forming an alliance to increase their chances at the November elections. Mr. 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, general secretary of al-Ahd Party, told THE STAR that the formation of the National Action Front (NAF), will be declared in the next two weeks. A similar announcement of an electoral pact from the Jordan Arab Nationalist Demoratic Alliance, the umbrella group of leftist parties, is expected next week, a source at Hashd told THE STAR. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Returns From Private Visit to Oman

JN2608161193 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn returned to the homeland this afternoon after a private visit to the sisterly Sultanate of Oman. During the visit, the king held talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman on brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries, regional and international situation, and means to revive Arab solidarity. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister al-Hariri Threatens To Resign

'Tug-of-War' With President Cited

NC2708083693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] The political game has crossed the barriers, which were originally set up to control the government, during the last two cabinet sessions after having crossed these limits secretly. It has become difficult for the competent political circles to cover up the extreme caution that engulfs the entire government.

Even though a blow-up has been delayed several times, the prime minister faced his political fate yesterday when he threatened to resign, thus putting the president and the ministers to the test.

From contacts with various sides, our political correspondent reported that:

1. The threat of resignation was a weapon unsheathed by the prime minister, who knew beforehand that he would only use it when he was cornered. The prime minister wanted to achieve results: at least a limited cabinet reshuffle, which is ruled out, and at most to exploit the resignation threat on various pending issues, especially that of the diplomatic appointments, which are a bone of contention between the president—represented by the foreign minister—and the prime minister.

2. The threat of resignation and seclusion can only mean, at least at this stage, continuing the tug-of-war between the president and the prime minister, particularly as the two officials' circles have tried to leak information that each is strengthening his political base at the expense of the other in the wake of the Lebanese-Syrian summit in Damascus. According to our political correspondent, both sides got the same Syrian advice on the need to resolve the pending issues and rearrange the situation as best they can because the difficult peace negotiations are the principal confrontation.

3. Political circles have blamed the two sides equally for the deterioration in Lebanon's political situation. While the prime minister's mistake was to try to confine all the cabinet authority to himself, the president's mistake was to go along with the prime minister on several issues for personal political purposes.

Our correspondent cited the prime minister as telling the president and the ministers at the last cabinet session that dealt with the budget the following: I'd like to tell you that I have decided to resign as I cannot continue under these circumstances. My reputation has been shaken in front of the people. How do you expect me to continue with my role while the media is carrying reports about the ministers' victories against me? Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri several times insisted on the resignation.

The president, who was expecting a stand that falls short of a threat to resign but more than just annoyance with the existing government position, was surprised by the threat, intervened, and underlined his confidence in the prime minister.

As to the ministers' reactions to this political surprise, they preferred to count to 10 without abandoning the points they have scored recently in the political decisions game. It should be said, however, that the ministers' position is not one of obsequiousness to the president and against the prime minister but should be regarded as solely in line with the Constitution, which recognizes the cabinet as a political authority.

Birri on 'Uneasiness' in Leadership

NC2708085493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri held a news conference this morning during which he issued a statement commemorating the anniversary of Imam Musa al-Sadr's disappearance.

Answering a question by a reporter, Speaker Birri denied that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has hinted that he will resign. Birri said the country, the south, and national tasks make it necessary for everyone to disregard all considerations except Lebanon's interests.

Birri pointed out that there is a certain uneasiness among the government's chief officials but said that this problem is being remedied and that Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam is now in Beirut for this purpose.

Speaker Birri described [Israeli Prime Minister] Yitzhaq Rabin's recent remarks as an attempt to undermine and, indeed, bury UN Security Council Resolution 425 prior to the 11th round of negotiations. He added that resistance operations will not stop, and that neither Hizballah nor other groups will be disarmed before Israel withdraws completely from the south.

Syria's Khaddam, President Hold Talks

NC2708084393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, accompanied by Brigadier General Staff Ghazi Kan'an, chief of security and intelligence within the Syrian Arab Forces in Lebanon, arrived in B'abda Palace at 1015 today. Khaddam and President al-Hirawi immediately began talks.

Last night, President al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri met at the presidential palace. They discussed domestic and regional developments.

Council of Ministers: Rabin May Undermine Talks

NC2708104993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] At its extraordinary session today, the Council of Ministers approved the draft general budget for 1993 presented by the finance minister. It will be submitted to the Chamber of Deputies. The Council affirmed its solidarity with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in his policy on administrating government. The Council said media reports yesterday on the deliberations and atmosphere at the Council are far from true.

The Council session, which was held this morning under President Ilyas al-Hirawi in Ba'abda Palace, restated the constant Lebanese stance on the peace negotiations proceeding from the Madrid conference. The Council believes Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's stance will harm the coming round of bilateral talks.

Hizballah: Israel Hopes To 'Exploit' Peace Talks

NC2708071893 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah has announced: We do not believe that significant progress will be made in the next round of negotiations, particularly since the Israelis are still intransigent. The persistent problem, which will continue to be apparent in future rounds of talks, is that the Zionists are unwilling to make concessions. Meanwhile the Arab negotiators have offered all the concessions they can possibly make.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-SAFIR, his eminence pointed out that the United States is still resorting to pressure tactics.

He added: Notwithstanding the earlier professions of optimism, no progress was made in the 9th and 10th rounds, particularly on the Lebanese and Syrian negotiating tracks. Negotiations on the Palestinian track still confront fundamental obstacles. Perhaps the most important cause of the recent seven-day Zionist aggression was that Israel had reached a deadlock in the negotiations. Failing to resolve some issues by negotiation, they resorted to a military operation to undermine the Lebanese and Arab stances and deprive the Arab negotiators of some of their strong cards.

Hizballah's secretary general said the negotiations are necessary and important for Israel because it hopes to exploit them to control the entire region at the least possible cost.

He declared: The enemy is seeking unilateral peace agreements. With U.S. help, it is seeking to increase the pressure on all resisting forces, notably Syria, in order to get the peace that serves its interests.

In his turn, 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah remarked: We do not support the negotiations. If they fail, this will be a positive thing for the Arabs. On careful thought, one discovers that current Arab conditions do not allow the Arabs to negotiate from a position of strength.

Israel Stages Fresh Raids; SLA Demolishes Homes

NC2608192893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Israeli warplanes resumed their raids this afternoon, dropping eight missiles over the eastern front of the 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Mlita, and al-Luwayzah heights in Iqlim al-Tuffah in two sorties. The two raids were followed by a series of mock raids over these areas, Sidon, al-Nabatiyah, and Tyre.

This morning, Israeli large-caliber artillery shelled Iqlim al-Tuffah and al-Nabatiyah. This was accompanied by Israeli flights over the areas. The warplanes were countered with antiaircraft fire.

The resistance carried out an operation on the militia post in Sujud, hitting it with mortar shells. The South Lebanese Army [SLA] militia responded by shelling al-Wadi al-Akhdar, Jarju', and the outskirts of 'Ayn Bu Siwar.

At the same time, a security report said that one of the officials in the SLA, upon Israeli orders, demolished scores of homes along the road between Bayt Yahun and Saff al-Hawa' under the pretext of preventing the resistance men from using them.

Hizballah: Israeli Attacks Show 'Hostile' Aims

NC2708072693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] A Hizballah official has announced that the Islamic Resistance knows very well how to put an end to the enemy's arrogance and violations and how to retaliate with the available means. He said the enemy leaders know this very well.

Commenting on the Zionist air raids against Iqlim al-Tuffah, the Hizballah official said these attacks demonstrate yet again the enemy's hostile intentions against our land.

He added: Despite the repeated crimes that the enemy perpetrates with his military machine and sophisticated aircraft, he will reap only frustration. He will suffer resounding defeat at the hands of the Islamic Resistance heroes who taught him an unforgettable lesson during the seven-day war and later during the victorious Shihin operation.

The Hizballah official emphasized that our proud Lebanese nation's resistance is the natural and sole option to deter the usurping enemy and drive him from our land in humiliation and defeat.

Fadlallah on Value of Resistance Against Israel

NC2608192093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Al-'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah today stated that the Islamic Resistance rejects the use of Katyushas. He clarified that at the same time, he supports the protection of civilians from aggression by targeting civilians on the opposite side so that there can be some balance.

In a radio interview, Fadlallah said he believes that the value of the resistance lies in the fact that it restricts the freedom of Israeli activity in Lebanon and demoralizes the Israeli soldiers.

Afghanistan

Presidential Decree Amends Money, Banking Law

LD2608210293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The Presidency press office reports a decree by the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan amending Article 46 of the Money and Banking Law has been issued with following text:

On the basis of the economic policy of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and on the proposal of the session of the High Council of Afghanistan, dated 27 July, and the presidency of the Afghanistan Bank, the amendment of Article 46 of the Money and Banking Law is approved with the following text:

As well as state banks in the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the establishment of the activities of private sector banks, which will conduct their affairs in the form of investments [modarebat], is legitimate. The regulations of the private banks will be drafted by the Afghanistan Bank and its legal procedures will be observed.

This decree will be enforced as from the date of its issue and will be sent to the Ministry of Justice of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to be published in the official gazette. It will also be published by the mass media so as to inform the public.

[Signed] Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan

Bangladesh

Official Views Bright Prospects for Pearl Exports

BK2608160493 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Bangladesh is expected to earn 15,000 million taka by exporting pearl every year. Steps have been taken for (?increasing) cultivation of cultural [as heard] pearls in Cox's Bazar District. This was stated by the chairman of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation [BASCIC], while talking to newsmen in Cox's Bazar. He said a special team of European Economic Community has already visited Cox's Bazar and expressed their opinion that there is bright prospects for artificial cultivation of white pearls in the coastal belts of the district. The BASCIC chairman said a training center and reproduction cell will be set up at Cox's Bazar very soon.

Article Views Failure of SAARC in Industrial Sector

BK2608101593 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 22 Aug 93 p 5

[By Md. Moniruzzaman Chowdhury]

[Text] The issue of economic cooperation among the countries of the South Asian region was never seriously thought of before the launching of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] forum in 1985, despite the geographic, sociocultural, and other traditional similarities. Though the prospects of such cooperation brightened after the formation of SAARC, until now, not much progress has been made in this direction. Of course, there are genuine problems, which is obstructing this cooperation, and it will not be possible to overcome them unless sincere efforts are made. This article aims to identify the problems impeding cooperation among the SAARC member countries, particularly in the industrial sector.

The economies of almost all the member states of SAARC are agro-based. The contribution of the industrial sector to the GDP of these countries is as follows: India - 27.9 percent; Pakistan - 27.6 percent; Sri Lanka - 26.5 percent; Bangladesh - 10.5 percent; and Bhutan - 8.2 percent. The figures for Nepal and Maldives are not available. This gives us a picture of the industrial scenario in these countries. Some states are quite advanced while others are so backward it is difficult to strike a balance between them. The pace of industrialization should be geared up to meet the demand of the growing population and arrest the alarming increase in the unemployment rate. Besides, a trade imbalance exists between the SAARC member countries. This imbalance can be reduced by reforming the tariff structure in these countries. The establishment of joint venture industrial units will also help overcome this imbalance and help with the rapid industrialization of these countries.

There should be more interaction and collaboration among the industrialists of these countries to achieve this objective. India has a greater role to play in this regard since it is more advanced in the industrial sector when compared to the other countries. Many Indian entrepreneurs are now investing in African and Latin American countries. In the spirit of SAARC, these investors should make efforts to invest in other countries of the region. The Chambers of Commerce and Industries of the SAARC countries can play a vital role in this regard.

The sector with the most potential for cooperation among the SAARC countries is the small and cottage industries sector. Historically, the cottage industry sector of these countries was very developed. This sector recently suffered a setback due to competition from technologically advanced countries. Initiative should be taken to develop this sector.

An expert committee should be formed in the SAARC secretariat to suggest recommendations and develop strategies for economic collaboration among the member countries. This committee should work in coordination with the other developmental and research organizations of the forum.

It must be noted that political stability in the region is a precondition to industrialization. Still a lot has to be

done to improve the political climate in the South Asian region. Political leaders with the support of the people should work in this direction with a view to improving the lot of the people. It has been observed that several ethnic and domestic problems exist in many of these countries, which are being fuelled by their neighbors. This will obstruct the pace of development in the region. Foreign investors do not consider this region a suitable place for investment due to these problems. If these problems are resolved under the spirit of SAARC, it will be possible to expedite the process of industrialization and attract foreign investments.

It may be mentioned that one of the industrial sector's major problems is the low rate of production. The products of this region are unable to compete in the international market because of this.

During the last SAARC summit held in Dhaka, top most priority was given to the eradication of poverty. The first and foremost step, which is needed to achieve this goal, is rapid industrialization. Efforts should be made to achieve the goals of this forum before it completes its 10 years of existence. It is expected that industrial collaboration will be given due importance. It will not be difficult for the South Asian countries to achieve the success which has been gained by the Southeast Asian nations in the field of industrialization. We hope that the SAARC forum will be able to bring about a qualitative change in the lifestyle of the people of region.

Group of 570 Rohingya Refugees Returns 26 Aug

BK2608142893 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Another group of 570 Rohingya refugees comprising 125 families voluntarily went back to their homes in Myanmar [Burma] through three transit camps in Teknaf in Cox's Bazar Thursday [26 August]. UNHCR [United Nations High Commission for Refugees] and Bangladesh officials saw the refugees off at the camps. This was the 76th batch of the repatriation of the Rohingyas. Official sources said at present 216,535 refugees are staying in 20 camps of Bandarban and Cox's Bazar Districts.

India

Prime Minister's Upcoming ROK Visit Previewed

BK2608062993 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 16 Aug 93 p 20

[By M.K. Dhar]

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 15—The first-ever summit between India and South Korea, when Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao meets President Kim Young-Sam in Seoul on Sept 10, is expected to result in diversification and deepening of political, economic and technological relations between the two countries.

It is significant that Mr. Rao's visit takes place when the first civilian government in 32 years is in office in Seoul. A summit between the two countries in 1984, when former President Chun Doo Hwan was scheduled to visit India as part of his Asian tour, could not be held because North Korean agents bombed his entourage in Yangoon [Rangoon] (Myanmar [Burma]) killing 18 officials including Deputy Prime Minister So Sok Chum and forcing him to cancel his visit.

Relations between the two countries have progressed steadily ever since diplomatic ties were established between them in 1973. However, the new economic policies adopted by India have opened new avenues of cooperation between it and South Korea which has made a thumping success of its market economy and is now counted as one of Asia's economic giants. President Kim, who is pursuing a new foreign policy under which South Korea will broaden its vision towards the world and the future, has pledged full support for Asia- Pacific regional cooperation. He believes that this region will be the most prosperous and democratic one in the world in the next century.

During his two-day stay in South Korea from Sept. 9, Mr. Rao is expected to hear from President Kim that South Korea will continue to liberalise and internationalise its economy and is ready to transfer its developmental experience and technologies to the developing countries. He describes his reform campaign and economic revitalisation policy as the two sides of the same coin. The purpose of his reform is to build the economy which has developed some distortions under successive authoritarian regimes. His austerity campaign and call for "pain-sharing" which froze the pay of Government, as well as, private employees has been fully supported by the people in the interest of retaining the competitive advantage of the South Korean economy.

The rather modest pace of growth of Indo-Korean trade hitherto is attributed to the different economic policies pursued by the two countries, but the lack of interaction between the highest level leadership has also been a factor limiting economic exchanges. This lacuna is now sought to be removed with a Rao-Kim summit at which bilateral, regional and international issues are expected to figure. The cold war scenario in which India found itself closer to North Korea and erstwhile Soviet Union, has undergone a drastic change and a miracle has turned South Korea's economy into a model for developing countries to emulate.

South Korea has considerable investible surpluses for modernising its production facilities and for upgrading the technologies in other countries. Though at present a producer of low-cost consumer goods, South Korea is trying to transform itself into a producer of high value-added and high technology products. This also makes a case for closer Indo-Korean ties. South Korea has become a leading economic partner of India in East Asia.

The two-way trade between the two countries touched one billion U.S. dollars last year with Indian exports at around U.S.$478 million. However, a surge in Indo-Korean trade has been recorded in the first quarter of this year, having jumped to U.S.$539 million. At present as many as 139 Indo-Korean collaborations with an investment of U.S.$22 million are operating in India. Of these 64 ventures came into existence after 1991 when the Rao Government adopted the new liberalised economic policy.

The joint collaborations cover such areas as polyester filament yarn, halogen bulbs, electriFal power brakes and clutches, cordless phones, pharmaceuticals, textile and granite processing. A significant achievement is the participation of Korean companies in India's infrastructural development which includes projects, such as, off-shore platforms costing U.S.$1.7 billion as well as ship building. Last year Korean companies bagged six more projects aggregating U.S.$1.63 billion. India is rich in such natural resources as iron ore, coal, natural gas, cotton as well as, trained manpower. Korea needs to import all these. Accordingly there is considerable scope for stepping up trade, joint investment and technical cooperation which should happen as a result of Mr. Rao's visit. It is argued that greater benefits would accrue by combining Korea's advantage of financing, manufacturing knowhow and international marketing with India's advantage in science and technology, natural resources and abundant cheap labour.

According to President Kim, the real reform in Korea has just begun and will continue till a firm foundation is laid for building a "new Korea" during his five years in office. The engine of reform was on and it would move forcefully only when the spirit of reform unites leaders and ordinary people and works for changes in law, systems, practices and ways of thinking. He has urged the ruling Democratic Liberal Party to take the lead in playing clean politics, formulate policies after taking into account the peoples' views and thus justify the trust reposed in it by the majority. Such reasoning applies to India as well.

Prime Minister Rao too subscribes to the view that countries of Asia-Pacific must cooperate more actively, innovate and share modern technologies in order to fully exploit their economic potential and raise the living standards of their people. India is engaged in a sectoral dialogue with ASEAN and seeks stronger economic relations with Korea, Japan and Taiwan.

President Kim is pushing reconciliation and cooperation with North Korea to achieve a unified democratic Korea. In this process, India which has diplomatic relations with both Koreas, is expected to exert her influence for opening up of North Korea, whose economy has suffered a severe jolt, and its reunification with South Korea. President Kim has made it clear that Seoul does not seek to isolate North Korea, but wishes to pursue peaceful co-existence, joint prosperity and common welfare with it, pending ultimate peaceful reunification.

Article Views Growing Indo-Israeli Relations

BK2608102893 Delhi INDIAN DEFENCE REVIEW in English July 93 p 107

[By Bidanda M Chengappa: "Indo-Israeli Relations: The Great Leap Forward]

[Text] Growing Indo-Israeli relations are evidently among the new political equations which have emerged in the post Cold War World. In a sense it implies that New Delhi, which had all along isolated Israel, has recast her policy towards West Asia. This is evident from India's upgradation of ties with Israel in January 1992 which now appear to have scope for further expansion.

Israeli Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres's visit to India needs to be seen as a step in this direction. He was scheduled to come here in January but did not do so because the Indian leadership felt that it could affect Muslim sentiments which were ruffled soon after the Ayodhya incident. But Foreign Secretary JN Dixit went to Jerusalem in April and finalised the Peres visit which indicates the indispensibility of this fledgling relationship with India.

While New Delhi's rationale to promote relations with Tel Aviv may emphasise economic and agricultural aspects, its foreign policy like that of any nation, remains a mystery. How else would it be possible to explain why Maharashtra Chief Minister Sharad Pawar and not Union Agricultural Minister Balram Jakhar led an agricultural delegation to Israel recently? Perhaps, Pawar's visit involved defence related negotiations initiated during his defence ministership prior to the present portfolio he holds. Clearly, some aspects of foreign policy cannot but remain grey areas.

Perhaps New Delhi has been practising 'bonsai diplomacy' towards Israel which implies that their bilateral relationship remains confined to the showcase and does not grow into a tree. In Professor ML Sondhi's words, "The inertia of political interests has slowed down the process of upgrading political and economic relations between the two countries. It is not enough to convey at the bureaucratic level that both sides recognise the future potentialities of the new relationship. The structural perception of the threats facing the two countries should lead to new political thinking at the highest levels of government. If a narrow view prevails we can only witness development of bilateral relations in social and economic spheres without encompassing crucial changes in the policy process at the global and regional level in a systemic perspective."

An aberration which characterises Indo-Israeli relations pertains to military makers between them. Very early in their relationship last year New Delhi invited an Israeli

defence delegation for discussions with the Defence Ministry here. This naturally indicates military interests between the two sides. Surprisingly however, Military Attaches are not part of their embassies. Logically India in its own interests should have military diplomacy with Israel because that country has honed its defence management skills to the extent possible. To conclude that India must have mooted such a decision to ensure the absence of its uniformed military officers on Israeli soil would not be incorrect, because New Delhi and not Tel Aviv has been wary of having overt ties till of a year ago. Probably India believes that military diplomacy with Israel will not help to portray its image as a peace-loving state.

To understand the basis of Indian foreign policy formulation in the present phase towards Israel is therefore imperative. A major consideration relates to the restructured strategic environment following the Gulf War in 1991. Saddam Hussein's decision to link his annexation of Kuwait with the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories altered regional geopolitics considerably. As a result the Palestinian problem ceased to be a cementing force in relations between Arab states giving rise to narrow nationalistic concerns of territorial integrity among them. Individual Arab States perceived a threat from a militarily stimulated Iran. In view of these developments India reviewed the importance of Islamic factor in her foreign policy calculations and eventually opted to build bridges with Israel.

As a result, India highlighted her new policy by supporting a UN resolution in December 1991 and thereby rescinding an earlier one which stated Zionism was synonymous with racism. Thereafter, on 29 January 1992, the Foreign Secretary announced the establishment of upgraded relations with Israel, and a new chapter in Indo-Israeli ties took shape. Also linking domestic developments like the Bombay blasts and official pronouncements expressing concerns over a potential threat from an Iran-Pakistan nexus are relevant to policy formulation. Such considerations are crucial in determining foreign policy objectives vis-a-vis a particular nation.

Understandably the Bombay blasts have opened the Government's eyes about the nations' vulnerability to international terrorism and highlights its inadequate expertise to tackle such internal security threats. Since India has been coping with terrorist threats in the last decade, access to Israeli know-how on counterterrorism would be invaluable. During the early eighties the Indian Army had deputed a few officers (attached to the 22 Establishment Special Frontier Force HQ) for a counter-hijack course in Israel. Besides late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's security systems (while in office were devised by Israeli specialists, according to one report. So there is no doubt that Indian interest in absorbing expertise to fight terrorism from Israel justifiably runs high.

Another aspect to relations with Israel involves the threat from 'Islamic fundamentalism.' Apparently India in the 1990s perceives a potential threat from an Iran-Pakistan axis in the Defence Ministry's view. Its Annual Report for 1992-93 states, "The modernisation of and expansion of Iranian armed forces presents the possibility of Iranian assistance to Pakistan in future conflict scenario." Interestingly Israel like India also perceives Iran as a threat to peace which connotes common interest between them. For India, in the absence of the erstwhile Soviet Union as a strategic partner, Israel could substitute such a role. But does New Delhi so perceive Tel Aviv?

In strategic terms, rising Muslim militancy coupled with the emergence of the Central Asian Republics, Pakistan and Iran—as a new power centre in international politics—can pose a threat to India and Israel. The two countries can therefore come together on this score. Mr. Dileep Padgaonkar writes that Israeli analysts believe that the two sides can cooperate to help in "halting the spread of religious fundamentalism working alone with Turkey to enable the Central Asian Republics of the former Soviet Union to move towards democracy, a free market and a secular political order...."

In addition, India can draw comfort from the fact that Israel's no-nonsense position on Kashmir being an integral part of Indian territory is extremely important. Such an Israeli diplomatic initiative speaks volumes about its attitudes and intentions towards India. From an Indo-centric view this support can matter in multilateral forums like the UN to further national interests. Likewise, both nations not having signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] are categorised as hold-out states, which again puts their interests together. Neither country can accede to the NPT, given their present security environment which is threatened by the 'Islamic Bomb'. In view of this, New Delhi and Tel Aviv could jointly formulate their diplomatic response to handle pressures on this score.

While strategic compulsions can bring the two countries together, economic interests really sustain a bilateral relationship. In this case the scope for economic ties between them is immense. Essentially, the Indian business community needs to see Israel as a corridor to Western Europe and the US markets where their goods will enjoy duty and quota free entry. Besides a 35 percent value- addition in Israel is another advantage. Similarly, Israel which is keen on expanding economic ties with the prosperous South East Asian nations looks at India as a base to develop such interests initially.

In Tel Aviv's foreign policy considerations, India assumes greater importance after her involvement in the West Asian peace talks. From the Israeli view, India's excellent relations with Arab states makes it an ideal go-between to iron-out irritants. In hindsight therefore, New Delhi's pro-Arab policy has helped it to cultivate cordial relations with Israel today.

Ministers Brief Parliament on Situation in Kashmir

BK2708094593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, told the Lok Sabha in a written reply that several steps have been initiated in Kashmir to bring the misguided youths into the national mainstream. These include reactivating industrial, economic, and developmental activities in the valley. Efforts are being made to create more employment opportunities, improving the grievance redressal machinery and addressing other possible causes for alienation among the youths. Mr. Chavan said several discussions were held with officials of various central and state government departments and financial institutions in Delhi and Srinagar in this regard. He said an all-party delegation also visited Jammu and Ladakh region of the state in the last week of July this year to get the on-the-spot knowledge of the situation. Mr. Chavan said additional assistance is also being provided to the state to meet the needs.

The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, also told the Lok Sabha during question time that beside providing rations and cash relief, medical facilities, and education for children in camp schools and colleges are also adequately provided. He said the government is also making efforts to admit the migrant children into schools and other vocational institutions. Mr. Pilot said he has also written to the state governments to consider the case of these children for admission into technical institutions in their areas. Regarding permanent rehabilitation of migrants, the minister said they are expected to go back to the valley after normalcy is restored. However, no deadline can be fixed for the return, he said. He said the Jammu and Kashmir government has also been asked to prepare the list of property of persons who have left the valley so that these could be protected. He said the government is also initiating an insurance scheme for the migrants whose property has been damaged or burned down by the militants.

Mr. Rajesh Pilot said that he recently held discussions with departments of central and state governments and other organizations with a view to identifying potential areas and working out an action plan for the Kashmiri youths.

Article Details Navy's Role, Responsibilities

BK2608122293 Delhi INDIAN DEFENCE REVIEW in English July 93

[By Vice Admiral S P Govil: "Why the Navy? Its Role and Responsibilities"]

[Text] National Security and defence concerns appear to be far from the consciousness of our countrymen—an unfortunate commentary—bearing in mind the shape, size and geographic location of the country and the prevailing security environment around. Much less is known or understood about the Indian Navy, the smallest arm of the armed forces, of its role and responsibilities.

The location of the nation's capital in Delhi appears to have given us a landward or continental mindset. It is necessary to remind ourselves that India is not confined to the Indo-Gangetic plain. And that a full 10-15 percent of our present population depends on the seas for survival and employment. Maritime history is neither taught in our schools nor generally known, even in our maritime states. Do we need to relearn the history of the colonisation of India to remind ourselves that India is a maritime nation that forgot its destiny only at great peril to itself. There is ample evidence to prove that our sea faring traditions date back to the Vedic times. Our ancestors, quick to perceive the unique peninsular position in the Indian Ocean (the only ocean to bear the name of a country) used it to great advantage, trading east and west by Sea. Another unique feature of our maritime heritage was its entirely peaceful nature. The most memorable times of our history coincide with the zenith of its maritime activity, when India's culture and religion travelled together with its trade and influence.

The advent of the Moghuls, with their ambitions of empire stretching to the South, spelled the beginning of the Central Asian mindset. Maritime traditions decayed and/or were destroyed through lack of understanding and neglect. By the time the European powers entered the scene, only some small coastal satraps saw the impending danger. The country paid the heavy price of over four centuries of colonial domination as the price of this neglect. Sardar KM Pannikarvery aptly sums up the sea battles between 1503 and 1509: "Thus without a decisive battle, the supremacy of the sea passed to the Portuguese. Judged from results, the battle of Cochin in 1503, and the engagement of Diu in 1509 are among the most significant events in Indian History. The first action showed to the Portuguese the weakness of the Indian Navies and afforded them the opportunity for building up a naval empire. The second left them free to pursue an oceanic policy they desired, and laid the firm foundation of the European mastery of the Eastern seas which continued for over 400 years."

Coming down in history, our involvement in wars with Pakistan in 1948 and 1965 and China in 1962 once again had our attention focussed principally on the security of land frontiers. Although the Indian Navy had participated in Junagad and Goa operations, it was not until the war in 1971 that the Navy truly got involved, bringing the totality of maritime dimension into focus.

In today's world one of our primary national objectives is to foster economic prosperity of this nation and hence economic security automatically becomes a key element of our national security objective which takes us much beyond the mere need to protect our land frontiers. Situated as we are geographically—half peninsular—and with a coastline of over 7500 kms, our economic lifelines have to be nurtured by the sea. 97 percent of our overseas trade—in excess of Rs.[rupees] 75,000 crores

per year—moves over the sea. It is this maritime nature of Indian economy, so vital for our survival, that one needs to appreciate, as also its vital interplay with maritime security. The seas are and will continue to be the main highways of trade in the forseeable future.

With this background, let us now see what is it that the Navy needs to defend or protect for India's well being:

—Protection of ports, harbours and keeping sea lines of communication (SLOC) open becomes absolutely essential in order to let our trade move by sea. Apart from the 10 major ports, we have 23 intermediate and over 100 minor ports along the coast. A coastline of over 7500 kms and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 2.2 million sq Kms that this bestows on us—this is an area equal to 2/3rd of India's land mass.

—Our Island territories—The Andaman & Nicobar Group of islands situated in the Bay of Bengal stretch 750 kms in the North- South direction comprises over 30 islands and almost equal number of rocks covering an area of 8250 Sq Kms. They lie 1300 kms away from the East coast of mainland India and support a population of over 3,00,000. The Lakshwadeep group in the Arabian Sea lie about 250 kms off the Kerala coast and consists ot 27 small islands which support a population of some 40,000. The sea around these islands is very rich of fishery resources.

—Fishery Resources—Our known marine fishery resources on the basis of a survey carried out to a depth of 40 fathoms are approximately 7.5 million tons. The 40 fathom-line runs no more than about 48 km off our coast, and in this area we are catching a mere 2.2 millions tons of fish. It we take the area of our EEZ which extends upto 200 miles off our coast, we are only tapping a fraction of the catch available to us. We will need to ensure that our resources are not stolen by others who are better equipped to tap them.

—Offshore oil installations—Discovery of oil and natural gas from the continental shelf has necessitated establishment and use of artificial islands/installations and structures for exploration purposes. Such valuable and economically critical complexes like the ones in Bombay High area are vulnerable to sabotage and terrorist activities. The Navy will have to play a major role for their defence.

—Safety of Indian Shipping—The Indian merchant fleet stands at over 7 million tons and today we have over 750 ships flying the Indian flag. During the 8th Plan this is likely to go up to 11.5 million tons. There are anything upto 30 Indian ships at sea in our surrounding waters at any one time including 8-10 tankers and a much larger number of ships of other nations engaged in trade to and from our ports. We have therefore an interest in ensuring the safety of this shipping from any threat.

—Seabed exploration—A significant new dimension added to the importance of the seas has been the discovery of vast resources in and on the ocean beds. Exploration of mineral wealth can only be expected to gather momentum as this planet begins to run out of mineral wealth on land. The off-shore seas and the sea bed have thus become as precious today as any square kilometre of land territory. In addition to the 2.2 million sq kms of ocean space as our EEZ where we have total exploration rights, India has been accorded a pioneer investor status by being assigned 150,000 sq kms of area in the Central Indian Ocean (about 1600 kms South of Cape Comorin) being the only third world country to have been accorded this status. All this requires constant surveillance of the vast maritime area and presence of naval forces to deter any potential offenders.

No navy in the world builds up its infrastructure and plans force levels on the basis of current threat because of the very long lead time required to build up strength on the seas. The size of the Navy should be determined by the country's geostrategic location, its self perceived role and the need for growth of naval muscle. Both qualitative and quantitative, in parallel with continuing expansion of its maritime assets. There is a difference between the outlook of a sailor and a soldier in this regard. Whereas a sailor is forced by the nature of the sea to think in terms of countries far and beyond and look outside the physical limits of his immediate concern, the soldier is almost literally hemmed in by his terrain.

Maritime threats are quite different from threats across the land which can only come from one's neighbours with whom one shares a border. The sea has no frontier and therefore for a naval commander there is no 'frontage'. A naval task force, be it our's or an adversary's, can move 1100 kms or more in 24 hours. One therefore needs to visualise this mobility in great depth. It means being able to move one's strike weaponry—from aircraft to missile fully supported by men, ammunitions, spares and mobile repair workshops literally from one ocean to another in 24 hours. Navy has to therefore monitor the geopolitical environment well beyond its sea shores.

Although maritime threat could come from many other quarters, the countries around us who possess the wherewithal to pose blue water threat to us and with whom we could possibly get into an adversarial position, one could list Pakistan, China and Iran.

Pakistan—has been fanning anti-Indian campaign at all international forums and continues attempts at destabilising India. It has increased its naval strength significantly in last two years whilst our own force levels have come down. Pakistan has always taken the lead and continues to do so in introducing a new dimension or weapon system at sea in our region. Their Atlantique aircraft with Exocet missiles can cover the North Arabian Sea. Orion aircraft with Harpoon missiles, if and when acquired from the USA, would be a threat at sea upto the Southern tip of the Indian Peninsula. Pakisian's missile equipped ships pose a threat to our tanker traffic along the Gujarat coast and to the Vadinar terminal. Its

submarine launched Harpoons are a threat to our surface forces, oil platforms, port installations and merchant shipping. Pakistan has also acquired considerable mining capability to disrupt our shipping in Vadinar and busy harbours like Bombay.

There is also the threat from their mini submarines and clandestine forces to our naval and offshore installations, harbours and port facilities. Pakistan therefore poses the main threat to our maritime interests. To add to this muscle, the Pakistan Navy is preparing to acquire a few more Agosta class missile firing submarines from France and Type 21 frigates from the U K. The opportunity and attempt to procure naval ships and equipment from Russia and other CIS States, is a new dimension which was not available earlier. Arrangements appear to have been made for large sums of hard currency for this purpose from its friends—perhaps Iran and Saudi Arabia—to compensate for sudden depletion in force levels, should US aid be switched of. There are also reports gathering momentum for transfer of a HAN class nuclear powered submarine from China. All this is in an environment where our own naval capability has virtually been on hold for the last two years.

China—China has been progressively building its naval strength. In the recent period the naval wing of the PLA is the fastest growing of the three services. Through a construction programme of large frigates, destroyers, submarines and support ships the Chinese are adding to their blue water capability. Sheer numbers and now the quality of weapons and sensors onboard make the PLA [People's Liberation Army] Navy a formidable force to reckon with. They also have a large amphibious capability with a well trained naval infantry.

China has followed arms export as a foreign policy tool and is the largest exporter outside the Western world. It has been instrumental in the proliferation of ballistic missiles, in this region, to Saudi Arabia, Iran and Pakistan. It also has an extensive defence cooperation programme with Pakistan.

China has succeeded in establishing a ring of client states all round India by selling arms to Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar [Burma]. It is Myanmar which has boosted Chinese aspirations in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). China has entrenched itself deeply in Myanmar's affairs. It has given her assistance worth US $ 2 billion in the last two or three years, half of which has been in the form of military supplies. As has been reported, the Chinese are very active in the Hang Gyi Island (in the Andaman sea) where facilities are coming up to support Chinese submarine operations. Plans for other islands nearby to support missile sites are also on the anvil. In Coco island North of the Andamans one sees the beginnings of a surveillance station. Sino-Pak collusion utilizing these facilities to operate and hamper our interests in IOR cannot be ruled out.

Iran—Iran has always regarded her Indian Ocean role as an extension of her role in the Gulf. Her rapid naval development along the most sophisticated lines are indicative of her resolve to be a strong Indian Ocean power. The annual report of the Ministry of Defence for 92-93 states:

"Iran stands out conspicuously in terms of rapid military build up and modernisation of its forces with particular emphasis on missile arsenal... Acquisition of submarines by Iran has created disquiet in the region. The modernisation and expansion of Iranian Armed forces presents the possiblity of assistance to Pakistan in a future conflict situation".

An understanding between Iran, China and Pakistan could be inimical to India's interests.

There are two other countries—Japan and Indonesia which we also need to look at closely to complete our threat survey.

Japan—The growth of the Japanese armed forces tends to get overlooked due to its professed pacifist policies. However, military capabilities of a nation such as Japan is a factor that cannot be ignored in the long run. Their military expenditure is at least thrice that of ours and exceeds the total military expenditure of the entire South Asian Region. It also has the most modern and largest navy in Asia. With the Americans assigning it the area of responsibility of upto 1000 km from its shores it will soon be operating upto the South China Seas. After nearly half a century of keeping its head down it has already started sending its troops abroad on UN missions—600 soldiers in Cambodia with a possibility of some more to Mozambique. For the first time since World War II the Japanese had deployed a squadron of mine hunters in the Gulf for operational task. At some point of time the Japanese will have to decide between the comfort of staying at home the clout to be had by projecting their military image abroad. They could well choose the latter and in times, to come during hostilities, escort their tanker traffic to and from the Gulf. To a country singularly lacking indigenous raw material, protection of their ships will become a necessity.

Indonesia—It is another country whose sea power has had its ups and downs. The Sukarno era saw the rise of its maritime activity and the Indian Ocean referred to as Indonesian Ocean. In 1965 she is believed to have despatched naval ships to assist Pakistan against India but they arrived too late to be of any use. She has recently purchased 40 naval ships from the erstwhile East German yards to add to its inventory. We must not forget that the Southern tip of our Nicobar Islands is only about 140 km from Indonesia.

Having dwelt briefly on, what is it that we need to defend and from whom, let us go on to India's maritime strategy and the role of the Navy and what is required to fulfill both.

Maritime strategy has to flow from our national strategy. Although not so defined, our unambiguous national strategy is to safeguard our independence, unity and territorial integrity to foster the country's economic well being; and pursue a foreign policy which aims at an international order supportive of our vital interests leading to peace and stability in our reglon.

We therefore need to have a maritime strategy which would help us in the furtherance of national objectives by initiating measures whereby the country develops its maritime assets—not necessarily confined to warships alone. We should aim to provide security at minimum cost in areas of our interest by means of a balanced navy having adequate reach and the capability to ensure that the war ends on a favourable note for us.

In simple terms what then should our Navy be capable of? We need to spell out this role in peace time, in crises and in war.

In Peace—We should in the main encourage naval cooperation with friendly countries by mutual assistance, training programmes. Joint exercises such as the ones we have had in the last two years, visits to each other's ports and the many ways in which such contacts generate and keep alive friendships. Visits by indigenously constructed ships attract great interest in friendly countries and pay handsome dividends. We must also aim to build up adequate punch in peace time to deter any potential aggressor.

In crises—We should respond by forward deployments remaining in high state of readiness maintaining a posture which contributes to effective crisis control. Capacity for rapid mobility and controlled escalation are essentiai in times of crises and are features unique to the Navy.

In War—The offensive role includestaking punitive action against enemy warships, ports and other shore installations as also causing interference to his SLOC. The basic thrust would be to cripple the enemy's war machine in the shortest possible time. The defensive aspects include:

—Exercising sea control to secure our sea communications against attack and interference by the enemy, ensuring that our SLOC remain open from blockade and contraband control. (There is a slight difference in perception between a solidier and a sailor. Armies most often have occupation or possession goals whilst navies have use or denial of use goals) In contrast to land, the sea is only a medium of movement—it cannot be occupied or fortified. Sea control connotes control of the air, surface and sub-surface space in maritime areas on the high seas in international waters.

—To secure our ports and harbours, and the entrances thereto, as also our island territories, from enemy attack including mining, underwater sabotage, hit and run raids and clandestine attacks. Protection of our valuable offshore oil installations against all forms of attack.

Type of forces required having analysed the threats, and the role of the Navy in meeting and countering these, we may now assess the type of forces we need to meet these requirements. The Navy needs to aim at compact, highly mobile forces carrying their own tactical air, anti submarine and anti surface detection and weapon systems and the wherewithal of sustaining them at sea for long periods. Our capabilities should be tailored to meet our own requirements and cannot (nor are they meant to) match those of the big powers. This means that we must have the following capabilities:-

—Surveillance Forces—To watch the areas of strategic importance to us. These should be capable of covering the approaches to the Indian ocean on both sides i.e. straits of Malacca to the East and the Red Sea to the West.

—Ocean Going Forces—Three dimensional in character, constituting the main strike force with provision for escorts as necessary. This is the Blue Water element. Coastal Defence Forces required to sanitise an area extending roughly to the limits of our Exclusive Economic Zone.

—Harbour Defence Forces—to protect vital ports/ harbours and installations from saboteurs and mines. Logistic train consisting of all kinds of support ships to replenish the frontline forces at sea.

—Amphibious forces—for the defence of our outlying island territories and other amphibious tasks.

—The air elements that the above need, well integrated with the forces.

—Special action groups—to consist of marine commandos, divers and the like, for special tasks.

We do not seek a power projection navy—that is for nations which have either ambitions or defence commitments outside their shores. What India needs is a medium sized Blue Water navy which will deter aggression and safeguard our maritime interests in the region. In order to support all the forces listed above, we need to have adequate infrastructure ashore in the shape of dockyards and other repair facilities, logistic depots, airfields, training and control facilities, operating bases and communication facilities.

The scope of this article is not to go into the numbers game, as details of force structuring is an exercise by itself but suffice to say that if we wish to become a country of significance in our arena, we have a long way to go. The Navy's growth is curtailed by financial constraints rather than any other considerations and regrettably our force levels at the turn of the century will be lower than at present times. This trend needs to be arrested and turned around fast to prevent the slide.

Running a navy is an expensive business, and building a self reliant navy is an even more expensive proposition. Well thought-out replacement programmes have to be initiated by the naval planners and approved by the Government in good time. Navies take decades to build. The time lag from design to delivery could be 10 years and more. Even if one were to order ships from abroad to supplement indigenous programmes, unlike tanks and aircraft some of which can be diverted immediately from the assets of the supplier, warships have a lead time in years. Thus naval planners have to contend with long lead times coupled with an ever changing geopolitical scenario.

India does not seek to use sea power for territorial gains but our maritime strategy will have to be tailored to the maximum utilisation of naval power in furthering our vital interests. The message that needs to go out clearly to our littorals and beyond should be that this great country of ours has the will and the capacity to safeguard its core values which include peace and stability in the region. A balanced three dimensional Navy should show our flag, carry the message of goodwill, reassurance and support to our friends, deter the adventurer, the opportunist and deal firmly with our enemies. In today's world, it should be our endeavour to turn the Indian Ocean into a zone of maritime cooperation.

Iran

Sudanese Paper: Tehran To 'Disrupt' Peace Talks

TA2708133293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] The press element of the Islamic party in Sudan, SAWT AL-ISLAM, has reported that Iran will make efforts to disrupt the orderly process of the Washington peace talks, which are scheduled to resume next week.

The paper, the organ of party leader Hasan al-Turabi, wrote that all the agreements reached through U.S. mediation, would not apply to the front established in south Lebanon, which has stipulated that the Lebanese Army would not intervene in places that were under Hizballah control.

This week, another Sudanese newspaper, SUDANOW, reported that members of Hizballah, the Islamic Jihad, and Palestinian rejectionist organizations have agreed to establish a joint front in south Lebanon, in order to fight Israel. The paper also reported that Iran has renewed its supplies to Hizballah.

Presentation of New Ministers to Khamene'i Reported

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Speech

LD2608114893 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1652 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Address by President Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i, on the occasion of the presentation of the new Cabinet of Ministers, on 25 August; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to meet your honor [Khamene'i], all of us collectively, at the start of the work of the new government and on the occasion of Government Week. God willing, the cabinet will benefit from this visit; from your excellency's views and your blessings. This is a juncture when we have to both think of the past and the present. When I, myself, review past issues, I am thankful before God for having granted us his blessings so that we may offer our deserving services to the people. [passage omitted]

It was a massive task to cross that difficult juncture. There were problems and difficulties associated with the reconstruction of the country after the devastations brought about by the war. We had to pay attention to the deprived regions and to infrastructural matters that we were not able to do much about in the period after the revolution. There were weaknesses in the infrastructure that we had inherited from the last regime. We had to make up for shortages in the essential everyday needs of the system—both people's consumer needs and also the reconstruction needs of the country. It was really difficult in those days. Wherever we went and whatever we did, shortages would become evident.

Well, with an empty treasury and the usual struggles to which we were used to during the war, our hands were tied behind our back. But God granted us his favors.

In our opinion, the fundamental difficulties have been solved, and we have left them behind. Your honor has also certainly noticed that Westerners and many international commentators were coming up with some extraordinary and peculiar interpretations. They were basing these on the criterions they themselves use in these kinds of instances; and their knowledge about us is weak. So they thought that because of her vast needs, during the period of reconstruction and following the war, Iran would be forced to surrender and put aside her stances—her revolutionary-Islamic stances. They were making hasty predictions that the government would surrender vis-a-vis the West and accept what the West demanded.

As to the alternative scenario, they predicted that if this were not to happen, then there would be an explosion—that the essential needs would either push the regime to bow down or would weaken their base inside the country.

Fortunately, both these predictions proved to be wrong—neither one nor the other thing happened. This is because we did not interpret economic adjustment [ta'dil] in the same way as they were doing. We did not copy the Western model in the adjustment. It was really difficult, this adjustment; its beginning was difficult—its early stages. We used our own initiative to assess our needs and our resources. We then based our decisions on this and moved step by step. Westerners thought that, in accordance with the usual patterns of behavior elsewhere in the world, if there was to be economic adjustment, it

would be something resembling the situation under the Soviet system—inflation would stand at 1,000 percent, production would stop, stagnation would set in, and such things. Well, all these things did not happen here. Figures show, in fact, that we even reduced and controlled inflation from what it was before the adjustment. We inherited an inflation rate of about 30 percent, and whereas calculations for these past four years show that inflation stood at an average of 17 or 18 percent apparently—it fluctuated between 9 and 22 percent. Moreover, we also succeeded in increasing our receipts alongside this inflation.

Figures show that we have increased the purchasing power of the people more than when we started, because our receipts have increased more than inflation. So, armed with this spirit, we are now entering a new term. The policies of the five-year plan are before your eminence, and you have probably taken note or will take note of them. We hope that the views of your excellency will help enrich these policies.

I can assure you that the next four years and the plan for the next five years will be able to stabilize the achievements of this period and score better progress. God willing, under the shadow of divine blessings and your excellency's support, and with the presence of the people on the scene and thanks to the efforts of our brothers, we will go through the next stage able to secure the interests of the country and the revolution quite well, while also maintaining the magnificence and honor of the revolution in the world.

May I ask your excellency to honor us [with your address]?

Khamene'i Conveys Advice to Group

LD2608121593 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1652 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Address by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i to new Cabinet of Ministers on 25 August; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] In my opinion, what should always be remembered by all of us, who have the honor to serve the people, is the issue of service. This issue in fact constitutes the real difference between the Islamic Republic and other political systems in the world, which are materialistic and not based on a divine system of thought. In other words, in the Islamic Republic, ministers, officials, the president, and managers and administrators at all levels have the chief aim and intention of serving the people and helping the process of dissemination of the divine system of thought. [passage omitted]

I know the majority of you are from close by, and there are only a few of you with whom I have not had a working relation. I have cooperated with the majority of you during the course of several years, and therefore I know about the way you think and work. Perhaps more than many people, I am aware of your virtues and good points. My main point of emphasis concerns the selection of colleagues. I have repeatedly stated this point, and I say it again, as I think that you should pay attention to this issue.

There are times when a manager in his work environment has to rely on individuals, as he cannot perform all tasks alone. You sometimes see that these individuals may be traversing a different route. The first bitter outcome of such a situation would be the undermining of the manager's work. Of course, in this process, harm may eventually come to the people, the country, and its objectives. But the first tangible outcome is that the manager's work will not progress, and this is because he has relied on people who are not suitable. Only those who have strong and fundamental faith in this process and its objectives should be brought into ministries. [passage omitted]

Today if we go searching among our revolutionary individuals for distinguished managers at the ministerial level, we will be able to find a sizeable number of suitable individuals. The Islamic Republic really has no problem in that field. I do not believe that we face the problem of a shortage of managers at high levels. There may be a problem at middle management levels, but at high levels, praise be to God, we have some very good managers. You, therefore, can use pious and committed individuals.

The essence of what I wish to convey is that you should let the Hezbollah atmosphere reign in the ministries; that is to say Hezbollah in its full meaning. Pious individuals, in other words, must determine the destiny of organizations. Of course, at different levels one can use individuals with a degree of know-how, even though they may not fully share our ideas and opinions, as they themselves might come forward and say so. I myself am aware of certain sections in various parts of the country wherein the manager who is serving—either at low levels or at specialized levels—has no belief in our way and in our revolution, but he has placed himself at the service of the management and the organization as a whole. You can use individuals' services in this way. However, those who make decisions and lay down the general course, in particular at higher levels of management, must be people with a profound Islamic and revolutionary characteristics. [passage omitted]

I do not believe that we need to rely on others in order to meet our goals, which are also the goals of the revolution, concerning the formation of a society based on social justice and welfare for everyone. Of course, having relations with others, benefiting from them, and cooperating with them is always good, at all levels, based on the boundaries and regulations laid down by the law and the policies devised by higher echelon managers. There should, however, be no reliance; there should be no dependence to the extent that we feel powerless without them.

The underlying foundation for all our works is social justice, a reference to which can be found in almost all religious texts. [passage omitted]

A great aspiration of mine, as his excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani has also pointed out, is attention to the country's deprived areas, the underprivileged classes, and those areas which were neglected by the corrupt monarchy regime in the past. This constitutes a very essential and important task for us. If the gentlemen, wherever they may work, in economic, technical, scientific, or cultural fields, pursue these goals, then they will fulfill what the people and the Majles expect from them.

Also, my other advice concerns cooperation with the other powers, that is the judiciary and the legislative. This is a very fundamental and important issue. A sincere and caring style of cooperation must exist, as it has existed before. The judiciary is very active in providing very valuable services, and the legislative power is moving forward in a caring and responsible manner.

As pointed out earlier, God willing, we will suggest certain things in relation to policies. Of course, what will be presented by the officials is not policy; instead it is more of a general plan. God willing, what we suggest will be in line with the policies which will form the framework for macro plans.

You now have the second development plan before you. God willing you will be able to take this major step with success. I pray to God for your success. I pray for you all, especially his excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is shouldering a grave responsibility. He is, in fact, among the qualified people of our era. We are grateful that a person like him is shouldering such responsibility. I always pray for him and also for you. [passage omitted]

God's salutations and benedictions be upon you.

Khamene'i Emphasizes Ministry's Mission

LD2608165993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The minister, deputies, and directors of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as political representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran in various countries of the world, were today received by his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution.

In the meeting, and in an address to the ambassadors and the charge d'affaires, his eminence, esteemed leader of the revolution emphasized: The Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] representative abroad is the representative of the IRI order, and the status of the representative of this idealistic and doctrinal IRI order makes it necessary that the order's ideology and ideals are reflected in all his political and social behavior and activity.

Pointing to the importance of the Foreign Ministry's mission, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: One of the top priorities of the ministry's directors of headquarters, ambassadors, and charge d'affaires in the various countries of the world, is to explain the thought and ideology of the ideals of the IRI order for governments and peoples across the world.

The exalted leader stressed: Some audiences of the IRI order are not aware of the current philosophy and wisdom of the IRI order, and if the IRI representative is able to properly explain the order's ideology and philosophy, there is no doubt that nations and great politicians across the world—even though they might not believe in us—would accept them.

The exalted leader of the Islamic revolution stressed: There is no politician in any nation who would not accept the IRI slogans of social justice, negation of despotism, and opposition to bullying by colonialism and the arrogant powers. Therefore, we have to explain properly the message of our world values.

His eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed: The more the IRI order moves away from its original source and the more experienced and wiser it becomes, its links become even more unbreakable with the original ideals of the Islamic revolution—the principle slogans of the revolution will never be old. While the Islamic republic still stands, the lofty ideals of Imam Khomeyni and the ideals of the revolution will continue with strength.

Addressing the IRI political representatives in foreign countries, the exalted leader stressed: IRI's basis and natural strength has been formed in a manner that it will not surrender to threats and bullying and will therefore not allow the enemy to decide its fate. The establishment of relations with another country on the basis of IRI's policy and interests does not mean that it will accept bullying. Therefore, we do not accept relations with a country that believes itself to be guardian of others, and we do not think that these types of relations are to the benefit of weak countries.

The exalted leader of the revolution said: With its extensive propaganda technology and means, America has deceived world public opinion regarding its aggression against suppressed nations and the plunder of their wealth, and it justifies its atrocities one way or another. For this very reason, America is the most hated country in the eyes of the enlightened people of the world and the Iranian nation. Therefore, IRI's definite policy is not to have relations or negotiations with America.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: The American capitalist regime's policy is that it has no mercy on anyone. America is always looking for the establishment of one-sided and colonial relations with other countries. It would never allow the export of its own fundamental know-how and technology to the country with whom it has relations. Therefore, countries having relations with America [Keshvar-haye moqabel-e Amerika] must know that it is also possible to live, to have tranquility, and to achieve progress without America. We have experienced this during 15 years without relations with America.

The exalted leader explained: Thanks to the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, may God's peace be on him, Iran, during 15 years without relations with America, has achieved enormous growth and great successes. We would have definitely been unable to do so successfully if we had maintained relations with America.

Continuing his remarks, the leader of the Islamic revolution added: A nation which is endowed with a vast cultural backing, as well as science, industry and God-given resources, will not need America. Relying on the will of our nation, we will safeguard the greatness and pride that Imam Khomeyni, peace be on him, gave to our country.

Addressing diplomatic representatives of Iran in foreign countries, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: Defending the world Muslims, with Palestinian strugglers at their head, is among the decisive and basic principles of the Iranian system. On that basis, we do not accept any compromises in Muslims' interests, and regard the so-called Middle East peace talks in the same context, and do not regard them in the interests of the Islamic world.

Expressing satisfaction with the work and efforts of Foreign Ministry personnel, the leader of the Islamic revolution said that the diplomatic representatives abroad place virtue at the top of their work and prepare their colleagues, and those close to them, to accept heavy responsibilities in the sensitive scene in which they are situated.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i praised the status of one member of the diplomatic cadre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who died this morning from wounds received in the imposed war. He said that the presence of self-sacrificing combatants among the diplomatic cadre of the country is an indication of that organ's soundness where revolutionary spirit sways. He stressed the need to maintain and expand that spirit in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Prior to the remarks by the exalted leader, Foreign Minister Velayati submitted a report on the results of the seminar being held in Tehran for the diplomatic representatives of Iran abroad. He hoped that the sum total of the performance of the Foreign Ministry would earn the satisfaction of the Great God and the guardian of the cause of the Muslims [Khamene'i].

Further on Khamene'i Remarks

LD2608135193 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1317 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, today received the foreign minister, as well as deputies and managers of the Foreign Ministry, along with political representatives of Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] in various countries.

At the meeting, the leader of the revolution stressed that the representatives of Iran abroad are actually representatives of the IRI system.

Ayatollah Khamene'i elsewhere said: The United States, owing to its vast propaganda technology and equipment, has diverted world public opinion and this is why, added the leader, the Iranian nation and the conscious [as heard] people of the world are so much against the U.S. Therefore the foreign policy of the IRI is to cut any sort of relations with the U.S.

The leader of the IRI, in another part of the speech said: If by any chance the IRI conducts relations with any country because of its interest, this would not mean it would allow any country to impose its words on it.

Addressing the Iranian political representatives abroad, Ayatollah Khamene'i said: Defending world Muslims and, on top of them, the struggles of the Palestinian Muslim combatants is the fundamental policy of Iran.

The leader also added: We would not accept any compromise on Muslims' interests, no matter what part of the world they live in.

In conclusion, Ayatollah Khamene'i said: The so-called Middle East peace talks are not to the detriment of the Islamic world either.

* Divided Hizballah Leadership Completes Extended Visit

93P50280A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Aug 93 pp 1, 4

[Text] Tehran-London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The leadership of Lebanese Hizballah completed a 10-day visit to Iran yesterday and returned to Lebanon without obtaining a major increase in financial support from Tehran. The visiting delegation, which was headed by Hasan Nasrallah, the secretary general of Hizballah, conducted extensive discussions with Iran's top political leaders and prominent religious personalities and security figures, including spiritual leader 'Ali Khamene'i.

Iranian sources attribute the extended visit, the longest to Iran by the leadership of Hizballah, to "deep differences" among the leadership. Nasrallah, who enjoyed strong support from Hashemi-Rafsanjani, called for a policy of "calculated risk" in facing the Israelis in southern Lebanon. But, reportedly the most radical wings of the party, led by Subhi al-Tufayli, insisted on a campaign of attacks on targets within Israel itself with the aim of forcing Israel to enter into a major confrontation.

They arrived at a reconciliation that calls for Hizballah to escalate operations in the "security zone" established by Israel in southern Lebanon. This will not give Israelis the excuse of "self-defense" to initiate major actions in Lebanese territory.

In the same time, such operations will put pressure on Israel during the second round of peace negotiations in

Washington later this month. These operations will also enable Syria and Lebanon to explain them as self-defense on the part of the inhabitants of southern Lebanon.

Sources in Tehran indicate that Nasrallah asked for the doubling of Iranian contributions to Hizballah during the next four years. This would have obligated Iran to pay more than $100 million each year. Currently, Iran spends $50 to $60 million in Lebanon.

Iran has sent five plane loads of donations to Lebanon until now. This will enable Hizballah to rebuild most of its bases in addition to hospitals, a broadcasting station, and a communications network.

Iran refused to increase its financial contributions to Hizbullah partly because of the prevailing climate in Iran due to a government call for belt-tightening as a result of a drop in oil revenue and immense payments related to the foreign debt of over $40 billion. Khamene'i has opened a special bank account for citizens to add their contributions to government assistance to Hizballah.

A source at the bank where this account was opened said yesterday that only $12,500 has been contributed by the public during the three weeks since the account was opened.

Government To Send More Aid to Lebanon

LD2608104793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The Iranian Red Crescent Society has announced: The fourth batch of Iranian aid for the Muslims of Lebanon, who suffered loss and damage during the recent attacks by the Zionist regime, was sent to Lebanon this morning on board an Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces aircraft. The cargo consists of various foodstuffs and everyday necessities.

Government Protests Armenian Attacks on Azerbaijan

LD2608162493 Tehran IRNA in English 1426 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 26, IRNA—Armenian Charge D'affaires to Tehran, Garnic Badalian, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and sounded Iran's protest against Armenian military attacks.

He was warned against continuation of the Armenian aggression inside Azerbaijan territory and close to the Iranian border.

Russian Envoy, Va'ezi Condemn Attack

LD2608175893 Tehran IRNA in English 1439 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 26, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation today condemned the fresh Armenian attacks on the Azerbaijan Republic.

In their meeting here Monday Russian ambassador to Tehran, Sergey M. Tretyakov and Iran's deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs, Mahmud Va'ezi, called for speedy evacuation of the Azeri occupied lands by the Armenian forces.

They expressed hope that in light of the efforts made, Armenian troops would soon evacuate the occupied regions and withdraw to the internationally recognized borders.

Tretyakov also briefed Va'ezi on the latest developments in Tajikistan and the situation on the Tajik-Afghan borders.

Latest developments in Tehran-Moscow ties and topics related to the Caspian Sea littoral States' Cooperation Organisation were among other subjects discussed at the meeting.

Trade Protocols With Azerbaijan Signed 27 Aug

LD2708102693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan today signed two procotols on cooperation in Tabriz [administrative center of East Azerbaijan Province of Iran].

According to these protocols, essential goods including wheat, coal, and farm machinery, worth $2 million will be exported to the Republic of Azerbaijan. In return, the Islamic Republic of Iran will import some essential products from the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Turkish Reports of Kurdish Militant Presence Denied

NC2608151993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Ankara has denied claims by several newspapers and other media organs that Kurdish militants opposed to the Turkish Government are based in Iran. The embassy described the claims as a hostile action aimed at disrupting the friendly relations between Ankara and Tehran. It said the action is a trap by the opposition forces in the two countries, which are supported by the Zionist regime.

Several newspapers and other media organs in Turkey claimed that the Kurdish militants attacked a border guard post from Iran a few days ago.

The Iranian Embassy issued a statement saying that the unfounded propaganda must be ignored so that the ties between Ankara and Tehran can be strengthened and the problems between the two can be solved.

UN Lack of Concern for Bosnian Muslims Seen

NC2708103993 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 14 Aug 93 p 16

[Political commentary: "The Latest Utterances of the Secretary General and the Oppression of the Bosnian Muslims"]

[Excerpts] UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali met a representative delegation of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] countries that went to New York to follow up the proposal to send forces from Islamic countries to Bosnia. He told them that instead of going to Bosnia-Herzegovina, they should be sent to Somalia instead! [passage omitted]

The following points are worth pondering:

—The UN secretary general's request highlights that the worst atrocities for 50 years, which are perpetrated by the Serbs, are unimportant to him. It also indicates his incompetence in meeting his obligations and implementing that which has been stipulated in the UN Charter on the defense of countries. It is also evidence of countries' utter chagrin over their expectations of the United Nations. [passage omitted]

—Sending forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina was proposed when the UN secretary general complained that countries were reluctant to send their forces to the region. But, as soon as the Islamic countries took a positive, unprecedented step and decided to dispatch forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina, even as part of the UN peacekeeping forces, the United States, the secretary general, and the West were faced with a dilemma and displayed no sign of implementing the plan. Instead, they began to object and embark on negative propaganda.

The United States, the West, and the United Nations are doing nothing to prevent the massacre of Bosnian Muslims and the destruction of an independent country, a UN member, by the Serbs. They have also tied the hands of the volunteering Islamic countries. [passage omitted]

It could be said that the Muslim Bosnian nation contains the most oppressed people of our time. If tears were shed for their plight every second of the day, that would not be enough. They are the victims of the force, dissimulation, injustice, and bestiality of the civilized West in today's turbulent world.

Support Urged for PRC Efforts Against 'Piracy'

NC2608160693 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 15 Aug 93 pp 1, 16

[Mohammad Sarafraz commentary: "U.S. Piracy at Sea"]

[Excerpts] In the past few days, U.S. warships in the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf prevented a PRC vessel bound for Iran from proceeding to its destination. The United States claimed the ship's cargo contained chemical material that could be used to manufacture chemical weapons. So they detained the vessel. The PRC Government denied the allegations and demanded that Washington support its allegations with proof. The Americans wanted to board the vessel and sought to use propaganda pressure to hinder its passage. [passage omitted]

It is amazing that our diplomatic apparatus has remained silent about this international crime and projected U.S. high-handedness in the guise of normal propaganda. The decrepit and unbalanced U.S. secretary of state says: "We are determined to inspect the Chinese vessel, and we will get satisfaction from preventing chemical weapons from falling into the wrong hands."

By persisting with its illogical conduct, the United States is heading toward international isolation of its own making; no country can endorse this lust for power by the White House, which is satiated by trampling upon international norms. The Zionists, who have imposed their policy of reigning in Iran and Iraq on Washington, wish to conjure up an image of a greater Israel for the United States. The United States wants to create a new Somalia in place of the old one! Through a propaganda plan, the homeland of the Bosnian Muslims was occupied by the Serbs so that it could be handed over to European forces in the guise of the United Nations, while the Muslims are ultimately forced to abandon their ancestors' land. The arming of Israelis in Lebanon means thousands of Muslim homes have been reduced to rubble and thousands of other crimes have been committed; we do not have the space to detail them here.

It won't be long before the United States is recognized as an aggressive, belligerent, and illogical country worldwide.

If the PRC Government, which is a permanent member of the Security Council, succumbs to the pressure of the illicit U.S. demands, it will create a major precedent. In such a case, the PRC, a country that has nuclear capability, will be unable to consider itself in the ranks of the greater powers. Beijing has adopted a principled stance and lodged a protest by summoning the U.S. ambassador.

We should support the PRC in continuing its legal stance to prevent such piracy at sea.

Musavi-Ardebili Deliver Friday Prayer Sermons

LD2708102293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] The glorious Mohammadan rite of Friday prayers were held today, as in previous weeks, throughout our Islamic homeland with the presence of the masses of this God-seeking nation. The Muslim people of Tehran held their Friday prayers under the Friday Imam Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili.

Tehran's interim Friday Imam, Ayatollah Ardebili, in today's sermons noted the progress of Islam in the world after the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran and considered it to have resulted from the sincerity, self-sacrifice, and altruism of the worthy Islamic martyrs, including the martyrs of the 7th Tir disaster and the heart-rending martyrdom of the Imam's disciples, Mohammad Ali Raja'i and Mohammad Javad Bahonar.

Referring to the growth of religious tendency in the world, especially in Islamic states, Tehran's interim Friday prayer Imam said: It was the Islamic revolution of Iran that revived Islam in the world.

Referring the crimes that are being carried out in the world against innocent people, especially the Palestinians, Bosnians, and Lebanese Muslims, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili said: All that demonstrates the primitive and uncivilized temperament of aggressor states. Tehran's interim Friday prayer Imam, noting the noble objectives of the Islamic revolution of Iran, stressed: The main objective of the revolution is not merely to attain economic development and financial ease.

President Attends Vehicle Manufacturing Plant Opening

LD2508154093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] A new car production line at the Saipa vehicle manufacturing plant has been opened in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the second day of Government Week. We draw your attention to a report dispatched by our correspondent.

[Correspondent] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, during a six-hour inspection of the Saipa factory, inaugurated a production line for two new vehicle models. During these ceremonies the president visited various departments at the factory and became familiar with various stages of vehicle production.

In the course of this inspection Heavy Industries Minister Nejad-Hoseynian presented a report on the vehicle manufacturing industry and the policy pursued by the Heavy Industries Ministry to support the vehicle plants. He said: It is not our policy to support vehicle imports; thanks to the new policies, the vehicle production plants are duty-bound to make parts for imported vehicles inside the country gradually to reduce foreign currency requirements for the vehicle-making industry and to upgrade the technical know-how inside the country. This will lead to lower prices for vehicles.

During his tour President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also inspected displays of various vehicle parts manufactured by domestic experts. He issued the necessary instructions to help parts manufacturers.

Addressing employees at the Saipa factory at the conclusion of his visit, the president paid tribute to the employees for their efforts to develop and upgrade the vehicle-making industry inside the country. He described the future of this industry as highly promising and expressed the hope that through promotion of technical knowledge in domestic factories this industry will grow daily.

According to this report, the new car production line at the Saipa vehicle manufacturing plant can produce two model of cars, a four-door model called Zephyr [saba] and a five-door model called Breeze [nasim]. The annual capacity is 50,000 cars, manufactured in two shifts per day. According to the Heavy Industries minister, the new Saipa products will be supplied to the market within a month.

Bank Gives Details of Deposits in Foreign Banks

LD2608222693 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] While the deposits of Middle Eastern countries in Western banks are at their lowest level for four years, Iran's deposits show an increase.

Latest statistics issued by the International Clearance Bank [Bank-e Tasfiyeh-Hesabha-ye Beynalmelali] indicate that at the end of 1993, coinciding with the beginning of the month of Farvardin of the current year, Iran had more than $5.8 billion in Western Banks. The level of the deposits at the end of 1992, coinciding with the end of last month of Dey, was $5.7 billion. This indicates that during last winter $105 million were added to Iran's foreign bank deposits.

ABRAR Report Describes Published Supplements

NC2308123793

[Editorial Report] Tehran ABRAR in Persian on 12 August publishes a report on page 8 describing the following publications:

"MODIRIYAT-E DOWLATI [Government Management] is a scientific publication. It published special supplements 18 and 19 on the management training center. Following is a summary of the contents of supplement number 18:

"Philosophy and objectives of the Islamic government; general characteristics of management from the Islamic perspective; characteristics of Islamic management from the point of view of basics, patterns, motivation, supervision and control of organizations from the Islamic vantage point; principles of management; assessment of organizational control; and an organizational appraisal of the utilization of analytical data from the Islamic point of view.

"PAYAM-E SADERAT [Message on Exports] highlights exportable items in its 10th issue, which includes reports on book exhibitions, flowers and plants, heavy industries, mineral ores, and polished stones. It is 62 pages long.

"BULLETIN. The 14th special edition of BULLETIN published by Tehran municipality is 52 pages long and includes events of the month, new steps in expanding the educational atmosphere, and a 'Sorrows and beauties' report on increases in population, civic amenities, and women in the workforce in difficult jobs.

"TAZEH HA-YE EQTESAD [The Latest on Economics] in its 32d edition carries reports on scientific, economic, and banking issues, an article entitled 'Are Structural Reforms the Wrong Course?', and articles on political obstacles to the expansion of private banks."

Other publications described are ZAMINEH [Groundwork] on economic issues and technology; PAYAM [Message] on issues pertaining to the Post, Telegraph and Telephones Ministry; SAKHTEMAN VA NASB [Construction and Installation]; SAN'AT-E NASSAJI [The Textile Industry], AB VA FAZEL AB [Water and Sewage]; JANBAZ [Self-Sacrificer—term applied to war disabled]; JEHAD [Holy War] pertaining to Construction Jehad Ministry activities; SHAHED [Martyr] pertaining to martyrs' families and activities of the Martyrs' Foundation; SALEHIN-E RUSTA HA [Pious Ones in the Villages] on officials in rural areas, tribal life, and cottage industries; NED-E GAZ [Call of Gas] on gas exploration and Iran's natural gas reserves; PAYAM-E NIRU [Message of Energy], published by the Energy Ministry and disseminated among ministry employees; and KERMAN KHABARNAMEH, SAZEMAN-E 'OMRAN [News of the Development Organization of Kerman] on development of various areas such as Sirjan and construction of a new airport in the province.

Pakistan

Islamabad To Protest U.S. Imposition of Sanctions

Decision Based on 'Misinformation'

BK2608051293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Caretaker Prime Minister Moin Qureshi has said the unilateral and arbitrary decision of the United States to impose sanctions on Pakistan and China is unjust and based on misinformation. However limited the impact of the sanctions on Pakistan, the Government is lodging a protest with the United States against this decision. In a statement in Islamabad last night, he said the missiles Pakistan received over a year ago are well within the parameters of the Missile Technology Control Regime [MTCR]. China had told the United States that the short-range missiles it supplied to Pakistan did not exceed criteria given in the MTCR. We ourselves had given same assurance to the United States.

The prime minister said Washington had informed them that it appreciated the cooperation of the Pakistan Government in considering the matter. Nevertheless, it proceeded with the determination of the suspected violation of the MTCR, explaining that this is required by its laws. He said the United States decision has ignored realities of the security environment around Pakistan. He said Pakistan was the target of attacks by Scud missiles when the Communist regime was in power in Afghanistan. On the other side, India has been engaged in the development of a variety of ballistic missiles that pose a threat to Pakistan.

Moin Qureshi said tension has continued to mount in Pakistan- India relations because of the policy of force that the Indian Government is pursuing in Kashmir. Half a million India military and paramilitary forces are engaged in a brutal policy of repression and terror against the Kashmiri people, perpetratibng inhumane and reprehensibe crimes upon unarmed men, women and children in blatant violation of human rights and civilized norms. Along with the build-up of miliitary force close to Pakistan borders, Indian leaders have publicly threatened Pakistan.

The prime minister said the Pakistan Government on its part has constantly pursued the policy of peace and restraint. We remain prepared to settle the Kashmir question on the basis of the UN resolutions.

The prime minister said in view of Pakistan's long-standing ties of friendship and cooperation with the United States, we expect Washington to be fair and equitable and to play a positive role for peace and security in South Asia.

Further Reaction to U.S. Decision

BK2708003093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1832 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 26 (AFP)—Islamabad will lodge a protest with Washington over U.S. trade sanctions imposed on Pakistan and China for alleged violation of an international arms pact, interim prime minister Moeen Qureshi said Thursday.

In a statement Qureshi said the "unilateral and arbitrary" U.S. decision was unjust and misinformed.

On Wednesday Washington imposed a two-year ban on China and Pakistan buying sensitive U.S. technology, in response to China's alleged sale of M-11 missile technology to Pakistan in violation of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

Qureshi said "the missiles Pakistan received over a year ago are well within the parameters of the Missile Technology Control Regime."

"China which agreed to supply a small number of missiles to meet our legitimate self defence requirements, told the United States that the short range tactical missiles it supplied to Pakistan did not exceed the MTCR criteria," he said.

"We ourselves have given the same assurance to the United States."

Qureshi said Washington had informed Islamabad that it appreciated the "cooperation of the government of Pakistan in the consideration of the matter," but proceeded with a "determination of suspected violation of MTCR."

Qureshi gave no details of the lodging of a formal complaint but said the U.S. had ignored the "realities of the security environment around Pakistan."

Earlier foreign minister Abdus Sattar said the U.S. sanctions were based on "groundless" suspicions.

"We regret that the United States has, on the basis of incorrect information and groundless suspicion, clamped category-II sanctions on Pakistan and China," he told the Senate.

"We regret this (decision) especially because the sanctions affect our friend China more than Pakistan.

"We deeply appreciate that China has throughout maintained a principled position in the matter," the foreign minister added.

Sattar said China had provided a "small number" of short-range tactical missiles to Pakistan which were not M-11 or any other MTCR category missiles.

The M-11 has a range of 480 kilometers (300 miles) and can be equipped with nuclear [word indistinct].

Islamabad had approached China several years ago to enhance its self-defence capability after Pakistan was hit by Scud missiles and it learnt that India was developing short and medium-range missiles, he said.

Later, Senator Khurshid Ahmed of the fundamentalist Jamaat-i- Islami (JI) party moved a motion on India's nuclear programme, saying it had acquired nuclear weapon technolgy from U.S. firms.

Responding to the motion, Sattar said India had been accumulating plutonium for several years and "it has hundreds of kilograms" of the material to make nuclear weapons.

He said India had also procrured heavy water from Scandinavian countries "illegally and stealthily" to enable it to proceed with its "weapon-oriented" programme.

Sattar said the stockpiling of weapon-grade plutonium by India "poses a very serious threat to international peace as well as the objectives of Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT)."

He said only India refused to abide by a series of United Nations resolutions on a nuclear weapon-free zone in South Asia.

PRC Denies Illegal Missile Transfer

BK2608145293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] China has denounced the United States' decision to impose economic sanctions against it and again denied any illegal transfer of missile technology to Pakistan. According to BBC and Voice of America, the Chinese Foreign Ministry described the U.S. decision as unjustified, saying Beijing has not broken any international rules on arms control.

And in Islamabad, speaking about the U.S. sanctions on the reported supply of missiles to Pakistan by China, Foreign Minister Mr. Abdus Sattar told the Senate that these sanctions have been enforced on the basis of incorrect information and groundless suspicion. Pakistan, he said, is not a party to the Missile Technology Technology Control Regime. Despite this, it was informed that the United States was considering the imposition of sanctions. He said Pakistan made representation in consultation with China and informed Washington that the supply of short-range missiles to Pakistan is not within the parameters of Missile Technology Control Regime. He said China, being a dependable friend, had decided to go ahead with an agreement to supply short-range missiles following the Scud missile attacks on Pakistan. He said in spite of information provided to Washington on this specific question, the U.S. government has on the basis of incorrect and partial information decided to go ahead and announced imposition of sanctions.

Responding to an adjournment motion sought to be moved by Professor Khurshid Ahmed, the foreign minister, Mr. Abdus Sattar, said India's program of producing weapons-grade plutonium in hundreds of kg for the last several years poses serious threat to the international peace as well as the objectives of NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty]. He said Pakistan has been following the Indian nuclear program very closely and minutely and is fully aware of a variety of installations that India has developed in this regard. Pakistan has been agitating on this issue and the United Nations has adopted a number of resolutions in favor of establishing nuclear-free zone in South Asia, whereas India has not followed these resolutions. He said Pakistan will continue to express its concern on the issue. The mover did not press his motion.

The minister for law and justice, retired Justice Abdus Shakurussalam, introduced a bill to further amend the Constitution. The Constitution 13th Amendment Bill provides to extend provincial quotas in the federal services for another 20 years. Earlier, several identical adjournment motions were moved by members on this subject. Dr. Mohammad Rehan, Mr. Yusuf Shaheen, Syed Fasih Iqbal, Hafiz Hussain Ahmad, and Syed Abdullah Shah wanted to discuss the provincial quota in the federal services provided in the Constitution for 20 years. The period had expired on 14th of this month.

Speaking on a point of order during debate on government's economic measures, the minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Nisar Memon, said the caretaker government has been inducted into office under the provisions of the Constitution. He said the government is functioning as per constitutional provisions and dubbing it as unconstitutional would lead to complications which would not be in the national interest. Syed Fasih Iqbal and Hafiz Hussain Ahmad criticized the economic measures and some other steps by the caretaker government.

Editorial on 'Odd' U.S. Behavior

BK2608121193 Islamabad THE NATION in English 26 Aug 93 p 6

[Editorial: "M-11 Issue"]

[Text] The US must be spending millions of dollars each year to keep a tab on, what it perceives to be, its vital concerns on arms proliferation. Its most important concern, of course, is the enforcement of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Pakistan became a victim of US policing when almost all military supplies to it, even those contracted for and paid for, were stopped. The other US concerns include the prevention of chemical weapons and the transfer of technology for the production of surface-to-surface missiles. All these arms, having been categorised as instruments of mass destruction by the international community, a ban against their production and dissemination had been imposed through various UN treaties and regimes. The only exceptions were, and still are, those countries which happen to have produced or acquired them before the UN ban. And it so happens that the US, now the chief policeman of the world, had produced all of them and in abundance. The wording of the treaties was thus devised to protect the haves and debar the have-nots. There is no ban on the nuclear powers to produce or stockpile Atomic weapons but they are debarred from transferring or selling them. Similarly, the 'Missile Technology Control Regime', of which the US itself is not a signatory, but has become and enforcer because of its own laws, places no bar on their production by a country, only on transfer of its technology to others. Self-contradictory and paradoxical as these laws would appear to a non-American, curiously enough they do not appear unethical, if not outright self-serving and wrong, to successive US administrations. Thus the Pressler Amendment was basically intended to prevent Pakistan from acquiring nuclear technology, but not India. Similarly, if India produces any number of surface-to- surface missiles, it does not come under the mischief of the relevant US law, but if Pakistan wishes to get a few missiles by way of a defensive move, it would attract US sanctions. Sanctions would still apply if Pakistan denies having received any missile.

The latest in this odd international behavior is the US's expected sanctions against China for its alleged transfer of technology to Pakistan for the production of M-11, a medium-range missile. Since India has produced many similar missiles indigenously, or so it is claimed, therefore, it does not fall in the category of a producer of weapons of mass destruction. Presumably it would not have mattered if Pakistani engineers had gone to China to learn the technique and come back and produced the missiles locally. But one never knows. Pakistan having become a favourite whipping boy of the recent US administrations, it could still have earned the US wrath for trying to defend its territory against an increasingly belligerent neighbour, which has stockpiled four times as many and far more lethal arms.

Accord With Afghanistan, Turkmenistan Signed

BK2508033193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Pakistan, Afghanistan and Turkmenistan have signed an agreement to promote cooperation in various fields, including water and power, oil and gas, national highways and trade. After signing the agreement at the end of Tripartite Commission meeting in Islamabad yesterday, the representatives of three countries emphasized the importance of rail links for the cheap transportation of goods. Pakistan proposed to train personnel from Afghanistan and Turkmenistan in design and construction of railway tracks.

Delhi Plot To Return Pakistan to Terror List Seen

BK2508144093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] The Government of India has provided additional funds amounting to 20 crore rupees to its intelligence agency, RAW [Research and Analysis Wing], for getting Pakistan placed on the list of terrorism sponsoring states by the Clinton administration. This has been reported by the Indian weekly, SUNDAY. It says the money was provided to RAW to collect information relating to Pakistan's help to Kashmiris and Sikh terrorists for passing it on to the United States so as to convince it of the necessity to declare Pakistan as a terrorist state. The first priority of the new RAW chief, A.S. (Feyali), is to get back Pakistan on the U.S. watch list. The weekly SUNDAY reports that the Indian Government has provided RAW 800 crore rupees in the budget this year.

India Said Broadcasting Coded Messages Via Radio

BK2508034293 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 12 Aug 93 p 9

[Editorial: "India's Designs To Create Disturbances in Pakistan"]

[Text] According to a report, the Indian Government has intensified its propaganda campaign against Pakistan through All India Radio. It is also using the radio to transmit coded instructions to its agents in Sind, and the Indian agents are following those instructions and creating disturbances inside Pakistan. India's despicable

propaganda and its designs against Pakistan's territorial integrity are not hidden from anyone. The basic reason for this is India's enmity with Pakistan from the very beginning. New Delhi has never been able to accept the existence of Pakistan.

Although the Indian Government has always made full use of All India Radio to carry out propaganda against Pakistan, a new revelation has now come to light that it is transmitting coded instructions to its agents operating in Pakistan, especially in Sind. An earlier report also noted India's abominable designs to create disturbances and chaos during the general elections in October 1993. The possibility that India may not desist from playing the game of fire and blood is not remote at all. India's plans to assassinate prominent Pakistani political leaders have already come to light.

In light of the above facts, it is highly essential for the law- enforcement agencies to remain ever vigilant. They must not show any complacency in giving exemplary punishment to Indian agents operating in Pakistan and their local patrons. At the same time, it is also the duty of the Sind and federal governments to take note of All India Radio being used for the execution of this abominable plan and lodge a protest with New Delhi in this regard. They should also raise the issue of India's interference in Pakistan's affairs in international forums so that it becomes clear to the world that India is not only interfering in Pakistan's internal affairs, but is also harboring sinister designs to create disturbances and chaos inside Pakistan to divert the world's attention from its own domestic problems, including that of Kashmir. While New Delhi does not hesitate to level baseless allegations about Pakistan being involved in the freedom movement being waged against Indian occupation by the people of east Punjab and Kashmir, it is practically interfering in Pakistan's domestic affairs and is involved in terrorist incidents, proof of which have already come to light on many occasions.

It is hoped that the government will demonstrate a full sense of responsibility in this connection and effectively expose this Indian interference before the world.

Foreign Minister Rejects Remarks by India's Rao

BK2608144493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Pakistan has urged India to abandon violence and brute use of force in occupied Kashmir and resolve the Kashmir question in accordance with the accepted principles. Reacting strongly in the Senate today, on the remarks made by the Indian prime minister on his country's independence day, the caretaker foreign minister, Mr. Abdus Sattar, called upon India to return to the path of peace, adopt reason, and respect norms of law and civiliazation. Referring to Indian prime minister's remarks about Kashmir, he said no civilized community can accept India's assertion, because it had occupied Kashmir through aggression. He said Kashmir is not the question of territory but the right of people. He said Kashmir people had outrightly rejected Indian claims over Kashmir. He said India cannot suppress the struggle of Kashmiris by sheer force. He said that the people and Government of Pakistan would not allow India to ignore its international obligation. He said Pakistan would provide full support to the Kashmiris inalienable right to self-determination. Speaking on the brutalities being perpetrated by Indian in occupied Kashmir, he said it is crime against humanity. He said India was indulging in state terrorism. Indian moves to break the morale of Kashmiris have failed in the past and will fail in the future also. He said Pakistan is doing its best to raise the Kashmir question at international fora and bring to the notice of the world community the terrible tragedy that India is unfolding in the occupied valley.

Mr. Mohammad Fazal Agha, Professor Khurshid Ahmad, Retired Justice Zakiuddin Pal, Syed Fasi Iqbal, Dr. Mohammad Rehan, Mr. Khaleelur Rahman, Mr. (Bashir Ahmad Matar), Mr. Gulzar Ahmad, and Mr. Yousuf Shaheen also expressed their views on the Kashmir question.

Nepal's Koirala Meets With Acting President

BK2508082393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] The prime minister of Nepal, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, called on the acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, in Islamabad today. Both the leaders in the meeting reiterated their desire to further improve bilateral relations in all fields, particularly in economic and commercial sectors; they underlined the need for exchange of visits by private sector industrialists and businessmen for the purpose.

Former Chief of Staff on Nuclear Capability

PM2608110693 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 23-29 Aug 93 pp 18-20

[Interview with former Pakistani Chief of Staff General Mirza Aslam Beg by Zaki Shihab in Rawalpindi; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shihab] You could be one of the very few people who know the truth about Pakistan's nuclear program. Is it possible to put us in the picture of what is happening in this sphere, and what truth is there in the reports about your country's success in possessing nuclear warheads or securing conditions for their production?

[Beg] We cannot talk about Pakistan's nuclear program without knowing what is happening in the neighboring state, that is India, and the strides it has made in this sphere, especially the fact that it has conducted nuclear experiments and tests which are no longer a secret.

Several years ago Pakistan began to work to develop its nuclear program, proceeding from its need to utilize nuclear energy to develop its economy and fulfill its own needs. At a later stage the nuclear program proceeded,

taking account of the necessities prompted by Pakistan's security needs and the proximity of a powerful state refusing to sign any international agreement banning the use of nuclear weapons in the military field. On the basis of its eagerness to protect itself, Pakistan has since the early seventies focused on using its nuclear program for peaceful purposes, while leaving the other options open, in view of India's refusal to sign any treaty subjecting the nuclear programs of the region's states to international inspection. [passage omitted]

India's nuclear program may be one of the most advanced programs among the developing states, with the exception of China; information received about advanced equipment, experiments carried out secretly and openly, and researches conducted have proved that India has all the basic elements for manufacturing nuclear warheads and enriching uranium and extracting plutonium. This technology may have placed it among those states that possess nuclear weapons not subject to any inspection by international organizations.

India justifies its position on Pakistan's demand by saying that nuclear weapons control does not concern the region alone, but should be dealt with as an international issue.

[Shihab] Does that mean that India is ahead of Pakistan in terms of possessing nuclear weapons?

[Beg] A Pakistani Foreign Ministry official, Shahriar Khan, has previously revealed that there were the components for the manufacture of one nuclear warhead. I say that Pakistan has succeeded through its own capabilities in setting up a plant for enriching uranium—which means that Pakistan has the capability to produce nuclear warheads. Nevertheless, our desire to sign an international agreement remains linked to India's agreement to sign it. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] What truth is there in the reports that the Pakistani Government has arrested Israeli Mossad agents who were planning to carry out operations against a Pakistani nuclear reactor?

[Beg] I believe that some persons have been arrested, but for security reasons their confessions have not been made public.

[Shihab] To what extent is India working to benefit from Israel's expertise in the nuclear sphere, and do you have any information on the scale of cooperation and its nature following the development of diplomatic relations between the two countries?

[Beg] We have recently witnessed the development of a new relationship between Israel and India, and Israel has now moved beyond the Middle East boundaries. There are indications that they are cooperating to develop a method that can be relied on in the nuclear sphere. You realize that India has an ambitious program to develop missiles, as it is working to produce a cruise missile [sarukh 'abir] with a 2,500-km range. It has already finished testing a missile with a 450-km range. These missiles hit targets accurately and are equipped with good guidance systems. Their launchers can be used to fire nuclear weapons at specific targets and hit them accurately. In this field we are looking for those who would cooperate with us.

Israel helps them [India] and offers them advice to control the mujahidin in Kashmir. It also briefs them on its experiment in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, where it uses utmost force. Israel can obtain very advanced capabilities from many states, and it can pass these capabilities to India.

[Shihab] Pakistan is under pressure from the United States vis-a-vis its nuclear program. Are you prepared to submit to this pressure and announce your abandonment of your nuclear program?

[Beg] Pakistan will not reveal its ideas. We are clear about what we should do, even though what we are seeking to achieve is to reach an understanding with India. India has between 50 and 60 nuclear warheads. This is attested by many experts and reports. As far as Pakistan is concerned, the number is not the point, even though the maximum number which we should possess must be determined. The Indians know that we have accepted that we do not need to compete with regard to the number of missiles, because one or two are sufficient to do the job. The truth is that we have the system and the capability to target [al-taswib 'ala] India and achieve our desired aim. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] What about the latest Israeli espionage cell that was arrested?

[Beg] The three Mossad agents whose activities were suspected are now in prison. But I do not know what happened after their arrest. Actually this kind of activity does not stop, and we are trying to deal with it.

[Shihab] What are their nationalities? Are they Israelis or Pakistanis?

[Beg] They are not Pakistanis or Israelis. It is easy for Israel to recruit Indians or foreigners, but recruiting Indians is easier for Israel, and without doubt this is in India's interests. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] Former Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that he was under strong U.S. pressure to compel Pakistan to abandon its nuclear program. Others too said the same. Do you have a picture of what happened?

[Beg] There were strong pressures. Among the means of exerting pressure was the suspension of assistance for our nuclear program. They have almost cut off the economic aid, whether the target was the Pakistani president or the prime minister. The Pakistani Government is exposed to pressures aimed at compelling it to abandon its nuclear program. Among the issues which are important for Pakistan is what we are doing at present for peaceful

purposes. We were in pressing need for reducing violence between us and India—which we have achieved long ago. [passage omitted]

Foreign Exchange Reserves Rise to $400 Million

BK2408145693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The Senate was informed today that the country's foreign exchange reserves have risen to $400 million as a result of the measures being taken by the government. This was stated by the finance minister, Syed Babar Ali, while replying to a question by Mr. Yusuf Shahin. He said this increase marks a significant improvement in foreign exchange reserves which are expected to reach the level of over $1 billion by the close of the current financial year. He said the balance of payments came under severe pressure during the last financial year due to global recession, weak commodity prices, and higher import payments. He said floods and virus on our cotton crop also had a negative impact. The chair admitted for discussion an adjournment motion by Syed Mohammad Fazal Agha regarding some alleged irregularities in the construction of the motorway. The house today continued discussion on motions regarding the impact of the economic package announced by the caretaker government. The motions were moved by Professor Khurshid Ahmad, Syed Fasih Iqbal, Maulana Samiul Haq, and Hafiz Hussain Ahmad. Taking the floor, Syed Fasih Iqbal criticized measures relating to devaluation and increase in the prices of wheat, ghee, electricity, gas, and petroleum products. He said it has adversely affected the people. Syed Fasih Iqbal suggested that the caretaker government should leave basic and long-term policy decisions for the elected government. He was still on the floor when the house was adjourned to meet on Thursday [26 August] morning.

International Mission Briefed on Human Rights in Kashmir

BK2508150193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] A four-member delegation of International Commission of Jurists, currently visiting the subcontinent for a fact-finding mission regarding the situation of human rights in the Indian-held Kashmir, called on the acting chairperson of Senate, Dr. Noor Jahan Panezai. Talking to the delegation, the senate chairperson said that international human rights organization and media must look into the situation and protect the situation in occupied Kashmir without prejudice. She said Pakistan allows free access and (?contact) with the affected Kashmiris and that there is no bar on any individual or organization to go anywhere with a view to finding facts.

Later, the delegation led by Sir William Goodheart of the United Kingdom held a meeting with the Senate Committee on Human Rights. The chairman of the committee, Senator Khaleelur Rahman, briefed the delegation about the plight of the people of Kashmir since 1988 and informed about the situation arising due to the presence of Indian troops in the area. The senators, who participated in the meeting, included professor Khurshid Ahmad, Justice Retired Zakiuddin Pal, Brigadier Retired Mohammad Hayat, Raja Zafarul Haq, Mr. Mohammad Ali Khan, Mr. Abdul Jabbar, and Mr. Hidayatullah Khan Looni. The International Commission of Jurists included jurists from Britain, Poland, Brazil, and Uganda.

Sri Lanka

Government Postpones Tamil Elections 'Indefinitely'

BK2608131293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1301 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Colombo, Aug 26 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan government Thursday used emergency laws to indefinitely postpone local elections in the island's embattled northeast where the Tamil minority is concentrated.

A statement from President Dingiri Banda Wijetunge's office said he promulgated sweeping emergency regulations rescinding notices issued by election commissioner calling for nominations from September 3.

"It is understandable that more time is required to reactivate the cadres and make preparations for the elections," the statement said, adding that the President had taken into consideration appeals by Tamil parties.

The statement said new dates would be decided later.

Tamil parties here had dismissed the polls anouncement last week as a propaganda ploy aimed at preventing a resolution against Colombo at a United Nations forum in Geneva.

"They are trying to show the international community that things are alright in the northeast. This election was called to coincide with a U.N. Sub Committee meeting in Geneva," opposition legislator Suresh Premachandra said.

He was referring to a draft resolution before the U.N. Sub Committee on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities meeting in Geneva criticising both sides in the Sri Lankan conflict.

The government lobbied hard to have the resolution withdrawn.

Premachandra said although elections were to be held for the Municipal Council in the eastern coastal district of Batticaloa, the council building had been requisitioned by the military a week earlier.

The areas where the polling was scheduled to take place had been brought under security force control after driving out the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Parliamentary elections were last held in the strife-torn northern and eastern regions of the country in February 1989 while Indian troops were deployed in the region in joint operations with Colombo.

The LTTE is leading a violent guerrilla campaign to establish an independent homeland in the island's northeast where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated. Thousands have died in the bitter 21 year struggle.

Government Urged To Lift Economic Embargo on North

BK2608150393 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 17 Aug 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Reconsideration Needed"]

[Text] It is unfortunate that the Tamil-speaking people in this country are unable to live peacefully on their own land and have to constantly face economic constraints. Although two years have elapsed since the conflict between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] and the Army began in the north, the economic embargo continues. Because of this, innocent people are not able to meet their essential food requirements or their basic needs. The problems faced by the innocent people of the north are multiplying daily. A peculiar situation prevails in which the people are getting frustrated while those responsible for it are sitting quietly. People reluctantly ask when will the war be over and when will they get the embargo lifted.

Following the deterioration of the situation in the north, the displacement of people and their migration in search of asylum have become routine affairs today. There is no constructive step in sight to bring the ethnic conflict to an end once and for all. On the other hand, the differences between the two parties concerned are multiplying. The people of the north have been crushed by pressures from both sides. The economic conditions are deteriorating rapidly. Most of the children are not in school and are languishing instead in refugee camps or the houses of their relatives, as they cannot pursue their studies. This has been highlighted in these columns on several occasions. This situation has been brought directly to the notice of the government by Tamil parliamentarians. There is no solution, however, to the predicament and the problems being faced by the people.

The occasional efforts made by several international social welfare organizations like the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to mitigate the suffering of the people through an amicable settlement between the government and the LTTE also did not succeed. Today, there is a question in general as to what will be the future of the northern people in this obscure situation. In the meantime, there are reports that the government is going to reduce the quota of kerosene to Jaffna from 5,000 barrels to a mere 1,500 barrels. The northern people fully depend upon kerosene, not only for lighting and agricultural and educational purposes, but to operate certain vehicles as well. If there is no kerosene, most of the houses will not have light. The authorities concerned should understand that disrupting the supply of a small quantity of kerosene for public distribution when there is no provision for electricity or any other sort of fuel will in no way be a humanitarian act. The parties concerned should realize that the continuation of the current state of affairs in the country, which denies the basic rights of the minorities as well as suppresses them, is not at all a healthy trend. At the same time, the economic embargo and other restrictions continuing in the north for so long have made the people frustrated and disgusted.

The government should not behave in a manner of snatching half the food from a starving person, but it should understand the real situation today and come forward to lift the economic embargo and reconsider the decision on reducing the quota of kerosone on humanitarian grounds. Under the circumstances, not only the Tamil people but the Sinhalese have been facing various problems. Therefore, all members of Parliament should take constructive steps to end the suffering of the people, irrespective of their political affiliations, caste, and religious considerations.

Attempts To 'Internationalise' Tamil Issue Rejected

BK2608090393 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 20 Aug 93 p 6

[Editorial: "No, Thank You"]

[Text] It is now abundantly clear that a strong lobby is being mounted to internationalise the effort to bring peace to Sri Lanka's troubled north and east. Colombo became aware of the submission of a draft resolution to the UN Sub-Commission for the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to obtain the mediation of the UN Secretary- General for a peace effort on Wednesday morning. Earlier, four Nobel laureates had backed a similar measure proposed by a Canadian non-governmental organisation [NGO].

Even as the first news of the present moves at the UN Sub-Commission in Geneva broke, the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] London office had issued a statement accusing Colombo of taking cover of the Parliamentary Select Committee to avoid direct talks with them. It said that the LTTE leader was prepared to consider a federal structure with the northeast forming the Tamil "homeland". The now familiar rhetoric was also included in the statement: "If the Government of Sri Lanka persists in its determination to subjugate the Tamil people, the Tamils will have no alternative to continue to fight to restore their sovereign state".

The government has already made clear that it does not regard the proposal for UN mediation to be the best solution for the problem. The NGO which first proposed it has been clearly told that a political solution of this problem is a matter that must remain pre-eminently for the Sri Lanka Government. In his letter to the Toronto based World

Council of Global Co-operation, Mr. K.H.J. Wijayadasa, secretary to the president, made the point that there is near total agreement among our political parties that the devolution of power, as already initiated by the provincial councils, is the sine qua non for the satisfaction of the legitimate aspirations of the people.

Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed has reacted to the draft resolution presented in Geneva by talking to the heads of mission here of the countries whose experts sit on the UN sub-commission. The draft, as presented, fortunately does not seek to clothe the LTTE as freedom fighters clad in shining armour. The Tigers have been faulted in that document for some of their crimes including summary and arbitrary executions, torture, abduction, arbitrary detention etc. This list can certainly be added to. Some of the countries promoting UN mediation are all too well aware of LTTE extortion, drug trafficking and what have you.

People living in this country are best aware of the ground situation here. They know very well that a large number of Tamils living in the Jaffna peninsula have paid with gold to escape the LTTE tyranny there. People risk their lives in taking the forbidden Kilaly route from Jaffna to the mainland and the Tigers have been making more than a fortune by making them pay dearly for the ride. They are aware of the large number of Tamils, in fact more than the numbers living in the peninsula, who live in harmony among the other communities outside the north and east.

The yearning for peace, especially among the people in the war- torn areas, is immense. All Lankans, wherever they live, know very well what the civil war has done to this country and the harm it will continue to do as long as it drags on. Time and again the Tigers have attempted to buy time when they were driven into a corner. The 14 months of negotiations with the Premadasa administration is a case in point. They proved totally untrustworthy then and there is no reason to believe that the Tigers will ever change their stripes.

President Wijetunga has on more than one occasion after taking office declared that what we have here is not an ethnic problem but a terrorist problem. There is no doubt that the Wijetunga administration, no less than the Premadasa administration before it, is committed to a peaceful solution if it is at all possible. But Prabhakaran has been hardline in his position that the LTTE is the sole representative of the Tamil people to the exclusion of all other Tamil parties and groups. He has always been unwilling to stand an electoral test whether the LTTE is what the people of the north and east want.

Claiming a northeast "homeland" is just not on. The Muslims and the Sinhalese outnumber the Tamils in the east. They were promised a referendum to decide whether they want a permanent merger or delink when the N-E [Northeast] Provincial Council was elected in terms of the Indo-Lankan Accord. The LTTE does not want any referendum and the people have not yet forgotten how the Tigers attempted to wreck the first provincial council election in the troubled districts. Nor have they forgotten how the LTTE purportedly "surrendered" arms to the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force].

As had been recently pointed out by Colombo, there are many UN and other international agencies already working here who are contributing significantly to providing the people with essential and emergency services. We are grateful for these services, but a matter of a political solution is an internal question. This is why Colombo is not anxious for the secretary general's mediation at this time. Should the draft redsolution be presented at the Sub- Commission in Geneva, our position must be forcefully presented. Hopefully, our friends abroad will view this matter as we do.

Police Arrest 150 LTTE 'Terrorists' in Colombo

BK2608112893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] One hundred and fifty hard-core military wing terrorists have been arrested in Colombo by the police during the last three weeks. Police sources told LANKAPUVATH that investigations revealed these terrorists had taken part in attacks against the Sri Lankan security forces and the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. The sources said that valuable information about LTTE operation in Colombo had been obtained from the arrested terrorists.

New Radio Service for East-West Sea Route Opened

BK2608115193 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The Colombo Radio—Radio Maritime Service—yesterday inaugurated new service covering the east-west sea route in the name of (?Galle) radio. The coastal maritime radio communication was modernized with added services such as radio telegraph, radio telephone, and radio telex to and from [word indistinct] within the region of the 1000 km. The new coast station situated in Galle was operated yesterday by Secretary [of the] Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications Ashoka Gunasekharan. This service brings in considerable foreign exchange to the country. It also renders humanitarian services to the sick on board ships, navigational warning, and meterological information to vessels.

Iran To Participate in $40 Million Railway Venture

BK2508121093 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Iran will soon sign an agreement with Sri Lankan government for 101-km Batticaloa-Pottuvil railway extension project, estimated to cost U.S. $40 million. Officials described the railway extension program as one

of the biggest undertaken. They said that it was aimed at opening the vast extent of underdeveloped land in the area. A delegation from Iran is now in the island to finalize the project. It is led by the director general of the Iranian Ministry of Defense, (Shal Imali). The delegation had talks with the acting transport minister, the state minister, the secretary to the ministry, and also the secretary of state. Officials said that the Iranian delegation expressed satisfaction with the project.

Malaysian Investment of $160 Million Anticipated

BK2508115493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Sri Lanka will be attracting U.S. $160 million worth of investment from Malaysia by the end of this year. These large foreign investments will be made despite the crisis in the north and the east. The country has attracted U.S. $100 million worth of investments during the last four months. The balance is expected in the next four months. This was disclosed by Sri Lanka's high commissioner in Malaysia, Sri Rajadurai, to the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency. He said a four-member delegation will come to Kuala Lumpur next month to meet the potential investors. It will be led by the chairman of the Board of Investment [BOI), Vasu Gunawardene. This will be follow-up mission to a delegation three months ago led by former BOI chairman, Lakshman Watuwela. Mr. Rajadurai said Malaysians are investing in developing low-cost housing projects, hotel and tourist industry, garment factories, tire retreading, construction of multistory buildings, and animal feed in Sri Lanka. He added that other areas of Malaysian investment include oil palm cultivation in South Sri Lanka and petroleum exploration. He also said visits by Malaysian businessmen and tourists to Sri Lanka had increased in the past few months.

Joint Venture Tire Factory Begins Production

BK2608120893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Another large-scale tire factory begins commercial production. It is situated in Kalutara and is a joint venture company launched by India's tire (?giant) association CEAT Private Limited, Sri Lanka's Associated Motorways Company, and the National Development Bank. The joint venture sanctioned by the two governments one year ago has been commissioned in a record time and will be opened this morning by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe.

Managing Director of Associated Motorways Group Tilak De Souza told the SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] that the factory set up with an investment of 140 million rupees will produce 100,000 light truck tires in the first stage. The first stage production will be for local use. Production in the second stage is for export. Mr. De Souza said that about 300,000 tires of this type are imported annually. The second phase of production will be mainly export-oriented.

India To Donate Meteorological Equipment

BK2008115593 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] The Indian Government has decided to give equipment to the value of 2 million Sri Lankan rupees to the Department of Meteorology. This gift of a radiosonde system will enable the department to obtain data on pressure, temperature, and humidity at different heights. It will also help in analysis and study of the atmospheric conditions. A news release from the Indian High Commission in Colombo said that the project included deputation of two experts from India for installation and commissioning of the equipment and training of personnel. The system will replace the existing one. Indian High Commissioner Shri Nareshwar Dayal will today formally hand over the new radiosonde system to the prime minister and minister of industries, science, and technology, Ranil Wickremasinghe.

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